

Hafa Adai!

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Club 88 to shut down

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Club 88 in Garapan will be shutting down, resulting in the termination of its 30 staff. **» 30 employees to lose jobs**

The owner of the e-gaming venue, MP Holdings LLC, announced the club's closure yesterday, blaming the move on the newly enacted Saipan Local Law 22-6, which essentially doubles the license

fees imposed on e-gaming machines.

Club 88 and Saipan Vegas Resort gaming consultant Gus Noble said they've already shut down Saipan Country

See **CLUB 88** on **Page 4**

Igisomar refuses to turn over \$1M settlement funds to MPLT

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar said the department is keeping in the bank the \$1 million it got as settlement payment in the Commonwealth's claims and cross-claims



Igisomar

against Kan Pacific and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, and will not remit these funds to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

In his July 2, 2021 response to MPLT chair Martin B. Ada's demand letter, Igisomar instead proposed that a certified question on the matter be submitted to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Igisomar said that, as DPL explained to MPLT in 2016, the attorney general advised that there were arguments both for and against treating

See **IGISOMAR** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



Students and parents browse for back-to-school necessities at National Office Supply on Tuesday. Both of Saipan's office supply stores were packed yesterday, as students and parents did some last-minute shopping the day before the beginning of the CNMI Public School System's first day of school today, Aug. 18.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Last-minute shoppers crowd Saipan school supplies stores

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Both National Office Supply and Modern Stationary were packed yesterday, as students and parents did some last-minute shopping ahead of the CNMI Public School System's first day of school today, Aug. 18.

In a brief interview with National Office Supply store manager Alice Legaspi yesterday, she said that business was so much better this year, compared to the store's experience

See **SCHOOL** on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:34pm, Aug. 17, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **75.2%**
Fully Vaccinated: **75.2%**
Days since last community transmission **147**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,007
Fully Vaccinated:	27,034
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,443
Fully Vaccinated:	4,168
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	672

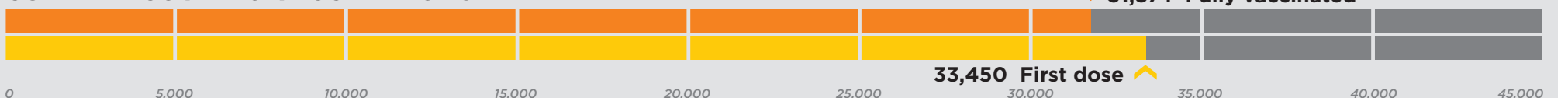
GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	9,018	63	9,081
Recovered	8,497	50	8,547
Active	327	63	390
Deaths	143	1	144

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	219	1	220
Traced via Travel Screening	182	1	183
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

31,874 Fully vaccinated



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

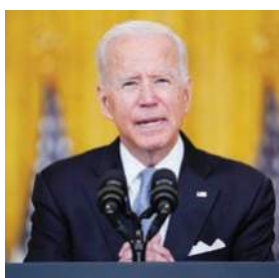
INSIDE



BUSINESS

Half of parents who are doing back-to-school shopping expect to spend about the same amount.

PAGE 11



NATION

President Joe Biden is standing by his decision to end America's longest war, no matter what.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Selma Blair says she's in remission from multiple sclerosis as a result of undergoing a stem cell transplant.

PAGE 15



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Local

Large turnout at inaugural Tinian beef and beer festival

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The inaugural Beef, Beer, and Bands Festival on Tinian over the weekend saw many people

walking away as raffle winners, with two people named winners of a Tinian Top Chef competition and a Bento Box competition.

According to BBB event coordinator Joseph Hocog yesterday, the three-day festival saw a high turnout, with a good number of visitors from Saipan, Rota, and Guam flying over for the event. Hocog said that official numbers will be made known sometime later.

With cattle donated to the festival by the Tinian Cattlemen's Association, a grand prize of a bullock, or ox and a baby grand

prize of a heifer, or a young female calf, were raffled off on Sunday. Tinian resident Jerica Aldan won the bullock, while fellow Tinian resident "M. Cruz, Jr." won the heifer.

For the cooking competitions, there was the Tinian Top Chef—which followed a format similar to the popular cooking competition Iron Chef—and the Bento Box competition, which judged competitors on the overall tastes of their bentos.

The main ingredient that all chefs were required to use in their dishes was fresh, grass-fed Tinian beef. Three chefs

from Saipan—Samson Tan, Laxmi Shrestha from Everest Kitchen, and Sonnie Sablan from Yna's Kitchen—were invited to participate in the competition.

Winning this year's competition—and walking away with a trophy, \$1,000, and automatic entry into next year's Tinian Top Chef—was Tan, who prepared for the judges a "French-Chamorro fusion" dish that was paired with a glass of Cabernet wine and featured tender beef, broth, and cream sauce.

Seven local Tinian vendors were invited to compete in the

Bento Box competition, and were required to make bento boxes consisting of multiple appetizers using fresh, grass-fed Tinian beef. Winning the event was vendor 6PAC, who were also given multiple awards in various categories: Best in Soup, Best in Dried Meat, Best in Stew, and Best in Kelaguen.

Hocog said the goal is for BBB to be held annually, and to be another event for visitors to Tinian to look forward to, alongside the Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, better known as the "Pika Fest."

Full approval of COVID-19 vaccine could impact suit of 9 terminated firefighters

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lawsuit filed by nine terminated firefighters against the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and its commissioner, Dennis Mendiola, could possibly be impacted once the Food and Drug Administration fully approves the COVID-19 vaccines. Currently, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are under an Emergency Use Authorization but both have already

started the process for full FDA approval, with the latter possibly gaining full approval as early as next month.

During a hearing last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho was notified by the parties involved in the case of the anticipated full approval of the vaccine.

Following the hearing, Camacho ordered the parties to keep a close watch on any development with the EUA of the COVID-19 vaccine and file a notice to the court if or

when an event occurs.



Camacho said if or when the vaccines are fully approved, the court will give the parties the opportunity to make additional arguments, if necessary, as the posture of the case and some of issues may change.

While the approval of the vaccines is being closely monitored by the parties, Camacho said he would take under advisement the firefighters' request for a preliminary injunction that would reinstate them to their

previous positions while a decision on their lawsuit is pending.

The plaintiffs in the case are Paul Acebedo, Jose K. Angui, Allen T. Calvo, Cain C. Castro, Argenon A. Flores, Derek B. Gersonde, Shawn DLR Kaipat, Philip Kalen, and Adam J. Safer. They are represented by attorney Joseph Horey.

The plaintiffs were terminated for insubordination following their refusal to take the COVID-19 vaccine.


Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting
 Wednesday September 1, 2021 1:00 PM
 Commonwealth Zoning Office, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Bldg.
 Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmzoning.com


AGENDA

- A. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of 08/04/2021 Zoning Board Meeting Minutes
 5. Public Comments
- B. New Business**
 1. Zoning Personnel Contract Renewal
- C. Old Business**
 1. Conditional Use Application #2020-6462 – Top Hatz Saipan, LLC is proposing to occupy and renovate a unit on the 2nd floor of an existing 2-storey building structure measuring 76'3" (L) x 45'10" (W) x 16' (H) for its "Adult Business" Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 002 D 07 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.
- D. Executive Session**
- E. Miscellaneous**
 1. Administrator's Updates
 2. Permit & Enforcement Report
- F. Adjournment**

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
 Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
 Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

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 *Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only

Two represent CNMI during Seattle event

Naesha Lurialyn Pua Mangarero and Sasha Fierce Camacho, who moved from the CNMI to Seattle, Washington in 2007 and 2016, respectively, represented the CNMI during an event hosted by the United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance in Seattle last Saturday, Aug. 14. The two plus a friend did a cultural dance to represent the CNMI for the event's many attendees.

Learned through a text conversation with Mangarero on Tuesday, she joined UTOPIA in

2007 shortly after moving to Seattle, but recently became more involved with the organization after seeing its work last year and this year during the pandemic. "We've seen and witnessed [UTOPIA's] hard work in assisting people like us," said Mangarero. During this time UTOPIA introduced programs that provided funds, food, face masks, and other necessities.

Mangarero said it is important for people from the CNMI who move elsewhere to find a place one could con-

sider a "safe haven."

"It is important for everyone in the world to find a safe haven. A place to feel safe, and a place that'll allow you to find your true authentic self," said Mangarero. (Joshua Santos)

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Mileage: 67,766

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UOG and Guam Museum to host virtual tour for older adults and persons with dementia

The University of Guam's Isa Psychological Services Center and the Guam Museum are collaborating to offer a virtual tour specially designed for older adults and persons with dementia who might not be able to visit the museum in person.

The tour is part of Isa's online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted in collaboration with the UOG School of Health's Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program. The virtual tour is meant to provide a stimulating and meaningful experience for partici-

pants to enjoy from the comfort and safety of their homes.

Guam Museum curator Michael Lujan Bevacqua, who holds a doctorate in ethnic studies and specializes in CHamoru history, language, and culture, will be conducting the virtual tours. The tour will focus on the museum's second gallery, "I Tasi yan I Tanó," which translates into "The Sea and the Land." The exhibit tells the story of the first CHamorus and how they thrived in a Pacific island environment several thousand years ago.

The tour will be held at the follow-

ing times:

Guam Museum Virtual Tour – "I Tasi yan I Tanó"

- 6pm–8pm, Wednesday, Aug. 18
- 10am–noon, Saturday, Aug. 21

Support group sessions

The family caregiver support group sessions are held remotely on Zoom every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning year-round and are free of charge.

How to participate

To attend the Guam Museum virtual

tour or any of Isa's upcoming family caregiver online support groups, use the following Zoom links or call or email Dr. Iain Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez at (671) 735-2883 or isa@triton.uog.edu or Rhoda Orallo at (671) 735-3277 or nfcspmgr@teleguam.net.

- Wednesday Support Group (6pm–8pm): <https://zoom.us/j/92072878067>
- Saturday Support Group (10am–noon): <https://zoom.us/j/91243370958> (PR)

Tropical depression weakens as it leaves Marianas region

As the remnants of Tropical Depression 16W passed through the Marianas yesterday evening, the system was last seen to have weakened.

According to the final advisory on Tropical Depression 16W issued by the National Weather Service in Guam, as of 7pm yesterday, the remnants of 16W could no longer be identified as a significant tropical cyclone.

The ill-defined center of what was Tropical Depression 16W was last located near latitude 13.5 degrees north and longitude 143.3 degrees east and it continues to move west at 14 mph.

Although the system has weakened significantly, NWS will continue to monitor 16W closely for signs of strengthening and advisories will resume if it does. (Kimberly B. Esmores)

CLUB 88

From Page 1

Club last Friday and now they've had to make this "very difficult decision" to close Club 88 effective next Friday, Aug. 27.

Besides Club 88, MP Holdings LLC also owns Saipan Vegas in Chalan Laulau and the Saipan Country Club in Chalan Laulau.

Club 88 is located on the ground floor of the Ocean View Hotel. The hotel has been closed since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a press briefing at Club 88 yesterday, Noble pointed out that their businesses support the local business community, local economy, and supply jobs to over 70 people and their families.

He said they continue to ask the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to meet them so they can come to a compromise and they can get on with a sustainable business model.

Noble said they are asking SNILD to repeal the bill that led to the enactment of Saipan Local Bill 22-6.

"Let us sit down and talk about a reasonable and fair local gaming tax that we can live with," he said.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan) introduced House Local Bill 22-8, in April 2021. The bill essentially doubles the license fees imposed on e-gaming machines by imposes a local license fee on all electronic devices on Saipan and poker amusement machines, on top of the license fee per e-gaming machine imposed by Public Law 18-30.

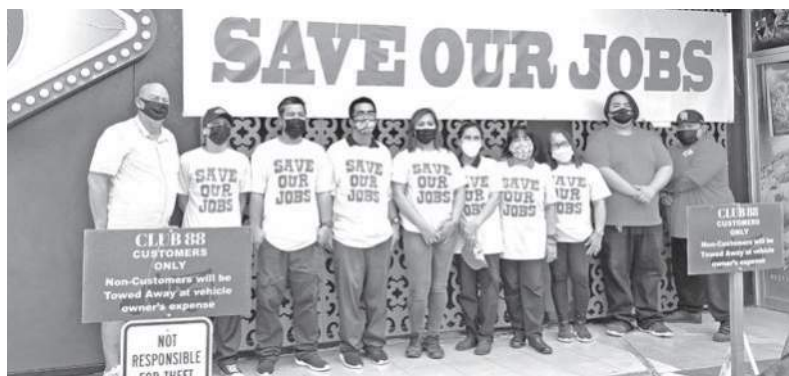
P.L. 18-30 established a license fee per e-gaming machine of \$2,500 minimum or 15% of gross gaming revenue derived from that machine, whichever is greater. Saipan Local Law 22-6 means the tax on each gaming machine will now total \$5,000.

Noble said yesterday that they consulted a couple of SNILD members last week and had a meeting with one member last Friday.

Noble said they also reached out to House Gaming Committee chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) and asked for a meeting.

"As of today, we've received no reply back on our request for a meeting," he said.

Once Club 88 is shut down, he said, the machines will be turned off.



Club 88 and Saipan Vegas gaming consultant Gus Noble, extreme left, joins some Club 88 employees in a group photo outside the establishment in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Club 88 will be closed next Friday, Aug. 27.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Noble said Club 88 has 73 licensed e-gaming machines, including 16 electronic roulette stations.

At this stage, Noble said, they have no decision yet on what to do with the machines as this tax came to them as a total surprise, only 10 days or two weeks ago.

Noble said the intent of the bill to raise taxes is having the opposite impact. He noted that currently, there are only 199 e-gaming machine licenses in the CNMI. "And we're just about to take 73 out of it. It's a big percentage and it's lost revenue for the government," he pointed out.

Noble said with this new local gaming tax, it's effective immediately as of Aug. 3.

He said they're actually relicensing some machines and paying the double tax now. "So it's not like it's coming. It's here. And it has a very severe financial impact on our businesses," Noble said.

He said they are making very difficult decisions on how to continue under this extremely heavy tax burden.

He pointed out that their staff are all local employees as they don't have Commonwealth-Only Transitional Workers.

Club 88 opened on July 16, 2015. Noble said they've been opened continuously since then, including during last year's pandemic.

He said during Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, the Ocean View Hotel was opened and the hotel gave free portable water because they have their own well.

Noble said their company also provided emergency accommodation during Yutu and also support local sporting bodies. "We continue to contribute to the community," he added.

Bart Jackson, general manager of MP Holdings LLC, said they con-

tinue to review their business operations, and make very difficult decision to reduce overheads and costs due to the immediate effect "of this devastating tax," that doubles their "already high tax burden."

Jackson said they paid all their staff in 2020 despite being closed for five months due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

With the closure of Club 88, he said they will be providing their 30 staff notices of termination effective on Aug. 27.

In this difficult time of the pandemic, Jackson said, this is a very hard decision, but that they have been forced to do this by "this unfair and unreasonable" tax—"the tax that was passed with no public hearings, no mayoral comment, without an opportunity for MP Holdings LLC to present its case to the local delegation, and correct the record on factual inaccuracies presented by the bill's author, Rep. Ralph Yumul."

Maureen Javier, 45, who is a shift manager at Club 88, said, "I feel like I want to cry. But what can we do?" said Javier who is the only one supporting the family because her husband has a heart problem.

Javier and her husband have three children, ages 11, 13, and 22 years old. The eldest, who now has her own family, is currently with the U.S. Air Force.

"I will look for a job but I don't know where," said Javier, who has been a Club 88 employee since 2016 or before the club even opened.

Javier said MP Holdings or Club 88 are good employers as they always provide the employees' needs even during the pandemic.

Javier and the other staff were all wearing yellow shirts with the words "SAVE OUR JOBS" printed on them yesterday.

IGISOMAR

From Page 1

the \$1-million settlement funds as arising from public lands and whether they should go to MPLT or the general fund.

Unless MPLT and DPL comes to an agreement on the nature of the funds, a certified question should be submitted to the Supreme Court, Igisomar said.

"MPLT and DPL have not reached an agreement regarding these funds," he added.

Igisomar said the \$1-million settlement funds relate to a settlement of the Commonwealth's claims and cross-claims against Kan Pacific and IPI based on U.S. antitrust laws and the Commonwealth's unfair business laws, raised in a case in which DPL was a defendant.

Last May, MPLT sent a second demand letter to DPL to remit \$5.6 million, including the \$1 million in

settlement funds, that is allegedly due to MPLT in fiscal year 2019 and warned of an investigation and a lawsuit if DPL fails to remit the money.

MPLT, through counsel Robert T. Torres, stated in that demand letter that DPL continues to withhold these funds unlawfully since the \$1 million was the result of a settlement with the Mariana Resort & Spa owner from a public land lease.

During one of the recent Senate hearings on Igisomar's confirmation as DPL secretary, the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations asked him about the matter, to which he responded that MPLT keeps writing him letters and then posting the matter in the newspapers even before he responds.

"The \$1 million is still there. We still have the \$1 million in our bank account," he said. "As of now, it's still untouched. It's still there. ...I'm still holding it and I'm not abusing it."

SCHOOL

From Page 1

rience last year at the height of the pandemic.

Legaspi said the store was initially not expecting an influx of customers, citing the ongoing pandemic and the store anticipating PSS to continue with fully online learning this school year but business turned out to be good this year, and Legaspi extended her gratitude to the community and National Office Supply's loyal customers for their continued support.

"I think students, parents, teachers, and the school community are really trying to prepare themselves, buying supplies at this point. We're all still lucky for having our valued customers right now, and the loyal customers of National Office Supply are still with us even through this pandemic," said Legaspi.

At Modern Stationary, the store was so jam-packed that *Saipan Tribune* was unable to get an interview with a company representative as all employees were occupied tending to the high number of customers yesterday.

When asked about how business was last year, Legaspi said that Na-

tional Office Supply ordered a lot of inventory ahead of the 2020-2021 school year, and did not expect all classes and activities to be completely suspended during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, Legaspi shared that "business was still okay" as people still regularly went in and out to purchase office supplies. She did notice that activities that could be done at home—such as puzzles or board games—were what was popular last year. "Some really wanted students to have some activities at home, and we had stuff like puzzles that can be used at home while students were [advised against] going out. [Business] was still okay [last year], but it was really different."

This year, Legaspi said, supplies for these products are much more limited compared to the store's wide array of school and office supplies. "Buying stuff like puzzles, toys, and other items that can be used at home was limited compared to notebooks, pencils, pens, that could be utilized during school time," said Legaspi.

National Office Supply is open every day from 9am to 2pm, but Legaspi said that hours were slightly extended yesterday to tend to the influx of customers.

TRIP with Korea extended to December

To allow more time for promotion in South Korea, the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors voted on Aug. 6, 2021, to extend the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan program through Dec. 31, 2021.

The program provides subsidies to airlines, hotels, travel agencies, and related businesses to help jumpstart tourism, the Marianas' primary economic driver.

"The board has unanimously decided to extend the TRIP program with Korea through the end of the year to allow more time for travel agents to properly promote the Marianas," said MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo. "With the end of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance only about four weeks away, we are pleased to see more businesses reopening and people returning to work because of the program. It's really a light at the end of the tunnel for our community members who have been able to return to work because more businesses have reopened their doors. While most of the arriving passengers have been returning residents availing of

the flights, we are extending the program so we can continue to slowly restore tourism through the end of the year."

Started on July 24, 2021, the program supports weekly flights from Seoul-Incheon to Saipan by Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way Air. It also supports full operation of Pacific Islands Club Saipan as a hybrid quarantine resort,



Alepuyo

where all arriving TRIP passengers will first quarantine, and two corridor hotels—Kensington Hotel Saipan and Saipan World Resort—where passengers can stay after quarantine.

The MVA has written to the South Korea Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport to inform them of new safety protocols enacted on Aug. 10 due to the significant viral risk of the infectious spread of the COVID-19 delta variant. The CNMI COVID-19 Task Force has reinstated five-day mandatory quarantine for all arriving passengers regardless of vaccination status. Visitors under the TRIP program will quarantine at PIC, where they will have use of hotel facilities during quarantine. Upon completion of the fifth-day

quarantine and another negative PCR test, the passengers will be allowed to stay at the two corridor hotels.

"Our first priority is to maintain community safety, and we are very confident with the protocols and guidelines established by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the COVID-19 Task Force. Second to that is for our businesses to reopen so our people can return to work and have a source of income to feed their families and pay their bills when PUA ends," said Alepuyo. "MVA is in constant communication with CHCC and the COVID-19 Task Force to ensure all the necessary precautions are taken to protect our community. As long as we continue to respond proactively and quickly as the COVID situation changes, we anticipate the program to be a success in terms of community safety."

In making its decision to provide more time for the TRIP program, the board also noted the growing number of vaccinations in South Korea, anticipated demand for travel during the Korean Chuseok holiday in September, and interest expressed by other airlines to fly to the Marianas based on demand. (PR)



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<p>» Used 2006 M2 106 Tractor, Mercedes Eng, 300 HP w/Brake, 10 Spd Manual, 380,000 Miles. \$ 57,799.00 + GRT.</p>	<p>» Used 2002 NPR 14 FT Box Truck, Auto, 175 HP, 409,000 Miles. \$ 19,300.00 + GRT.</p>	<p>» Used 2013, 14 & 16 Ft Reefer Body with Lift Gate.</p>	<p>» 2007 Freightliner 18 Ft Stake Flatbed Lift Gate.</p>	

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program has expanded the definition of Front Liners/Essential Workers. The expanded definition now include:

1. Child protective service workers: those who work in the child care welfare system and other critical social services;
2. Workers in the hotel industry;
3. Field workers from utility, water, and waste water companies;
4. Legally operating transportation services;
5. Public works employees, including parts and recreation and private or other autonomous agencies who conduct field work and inspections;
6. Communications and information technology workers;
7. Hazardous materials workers
8. Financial services and lending institutions;
9. Food delivery services;
10. Employees working at the airport and seaport;
11. Restaurant workers and those who work in the food industry.

Front liners/essential workers who may not necessarily meet income guidelines for the family may still qualify. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please call **CCDF Eligibility Workers, Genevieve Guerrero, at 664-2576** or email at **dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com** or **Joella Rosario, at 664-2575** or email at **ccd.jrosario@gmail.com**. You may also want to visit the **cnmicclp.gov.mp** to download the CCDF Waitlist Application Packet.

/S/
Maribel D. Loste
CCDF Director

/S/
Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary



USCIS extends validity period of Form I-693

Beginning Aug. 12, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is temporarily extending the validity period for Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, from two years to now four years due to COVID-19-related delays in processing.

USCIS may consider a completed Form I-693 as valid if:

- The civil surgeon's signature is dated no more than 60 days before the applicant filed Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status;
- No more than four years have passed since the date of the civil surgeon's signature; and
- A decision on the applicant's Form I-485 is issued on or before Sept. 30, 2021.

We are making this temporary change because COVID-19 has caused processing delays and affected applicants' ability to complete the required immigration medical examination. Previously, we considered a completed Form I-693 to retain its validity for two years after the date the civil surgeon signed, as long as the date of the civil surgeon's signature was no more than 60 days before the applicant filed for adjustment of status.

USCIS is on track to approve more employment-based adjustment of status

applications than it has since FY 2005. We have prioritized employment-based adjustment of status applications during every step of its processing and adjudication during this fiscal year. We continue to make processing and resource allocation decisions to increase the pace of adjudications and limit the potential for employment-based visa numbers to go unused.

If you are applying for ad-

justment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident with USCIS (also known as applying for a Green Card), please file Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, together with Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status. Doing so may eliminate the need for us to issue a Request for Evidence (RFE) and helps avoid adjudication delays. **(PR)**

Game Day at JKPL this Saturday

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library invites the community to the Annual Game Day at Your Library this coming Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, from 10am to 3pm.

Game Day is an annual celebration of games, play, libraries, and learning in honor of the late JKPL computer programmer Roy D. Rechebei. All activities are free and open to the public.

Game Day highlights will include Magic the Gathering and Prodigy hosted by the Information Technology Center. Seats for Magic the Gathering participants are limited to 16 players and will be available on a first come, first served basis. Participants of Magic the Gathering must provide their own lands.

Prodigy participants are

welcome to provide their own headphones. Devices are limited. Game play will commence in the main lobby of the JKPL.

At the Children of Our Homeland Center (or Children's Library), children and their families are invited to play a variety of the following fun-filled games: Wii, Bowling, Media Enhanced Books or AV2, trivia games, and more. As a treat, the Saipan Marianas Alpha Leo Club will be celebrity guest readers for Saturday Storytime.

For more information, contact Joey Songsong at (670) 235-7315 or 7322/7323 (READ). In compliance with safety and health measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, all activities will be following safety and health measures with social distancing measures. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-037

A&E SERVICES FOR TINIAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) & ROTA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) and Environmental Impact Assessment for Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) on Tinian and Rota. The services shall include preparation of the PER as per USDA RUS Bulletin 1780-2, an Environmental Assessment for submittal to the CNMI Coastal Resources Management (CRM) as a Major siting Permit Application.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-037, A&E Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) – Preliminary Engineering Report & Environmental Impact Assessment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m., (ChST) on September 8, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Chief Engineer at email larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1

Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1 Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than September 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 24, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne C. Ogunoro via email address yvonne.ogunoro@cucgov.org, CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Saipan municipal council session moved to Monday**

The scheduled meeting for the 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021 is rescheduled to Monday, Aug. 23, 2021. The session will be held at 10am at the Saipan and Northern Mariana Islands Municipal Council office at the Kiosku, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. The meeting agenda will include the Municipal Council building project and Kiosku repairs project, as well as the proposed user fee for the kiosku. (PR)

DPL sets homestead program outreach on Rota

The Department of Public Land will be conducting a community outreach hearing regarding the homestead program on Sept.

9, 2021, at the Rota Mayor's Office starting at 5pm. For more information, contact Rota resident director Antonio Quitugua at Rota DPL office at 532-9431 or email dplrota@dpl.gov.mp. If you would like to meet on a one-on-one basis with the DPL secretary and Quitugua before the scheduled hearing and the following day (Sept. 10, 2021) before 12pm, email Mai Mendiola at admin@dpl.gov.mp or Velma Reyes at vreyes@dpl.gov.mp. (PR)

Free Guam PTAC webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars for August 2021. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the

live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ Aug. 19 - Cybersecurity: Federal Contractor Responsibilities—The Department of Defense is requiring cybersecurity certification for vendors. We will discuss the best way to comply with DOD's requirement. The upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification and the DFARS Interim Rule will be discussed.

■ Aug. 26 - Marketing to the federal government—The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list."

Register on our website, <http://guamp-tac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

8th Women's Summit on Aug. 26

The 8th Annual Women's Summit will take place on Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021, from 9am to 3pm. The summit is co-sponsored by the CNMI Women's Association and Women's Affairs Office under the Governor's Office, in collaboration with community partners from both the public and private sectors. This year's theme is "Gender Equality: Key to Sustainable Development."


This summit is part of the 2021 CNMI Women's Month Celebration, which was held in March 2021, and is slated as part of events celebrating and promoting women of the

CNMI throughout the year.

The panel discussions planned will focus on Sustainable Development Goal #5: Gender Equality; Women & Culture; Women & Health: Preventative Health Care; and Women & Peace: Leading the Conversation on Militarization in the CNMI.

Interested attendees are encouraged to register at: <https://forms.gle/eYmeSzmE5W1t-VkT48>

For more information on the summit, email cwa.doiginoef@gmail.com, cwa.dofitall@gmail.com, or call (670)233-8978/9411. Summit location will be announced shortly. (PR)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-21-2030

For: Marianas Visitors Authority Global Branding Services

Submission /Closing Date: October 06, 2021 **Time:** 3:00PM ChST

Submit sealed proposals to:
Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after July 20, 2021 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference "MVA-RFP-21-2030 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY GLOBAL BRANDING SERVICES".

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before October 06, 2021 and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer Ms. Lenette F. Maratita in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to Imaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00PM, Chamorro Standard Time on September 20, 2021.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA



CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-155

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF ONE (1) MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER/SCANNER MACHINE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH COVID-19 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (CCERA) PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO CABRERA, ADMINISTRATOR OF OGM, VIA EMAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.



ROAD TO

80



10

DAYS LEFT!

get vaccinated for

a "shot" to win!



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE




















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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

A coronavirus vaccination mandate for US troops shouldn't be controversial

The Biden administration next month will mandate that all active-duty military personnel be vaccinated against the coronavirus. This commonsense imperative is nothing new—troops are already mandated for vaccination against 17 diseases—but it is nonetheless controversial among those who have turned anti-vaccination hokum into a culture war sacrament.

It should go without saying that full vaccination of the armed forces against any dangerous virus is crucial to America's security. The tiny ledge that critics have to stand on is the fact that the Food and Drug Administration so far has granted only emergency-use approval for the coronavirus vaccines. Full, formal approval, long overdue, could come soon, and that should end this ridiculous debate once and for all.

It was, of all ironies, former President Donald Trump whose administration oversaw the record-speed development of coronavirus vaccines last year—arguably Trump's only instance of success in handling the pandemic, but a huge one. It's an enduring mystery why more Republican leaders haven't embraced the strategy of Trump's former press secretary, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who has encouraged conservatives to get the shot by dubbing it the "Trump vaccine." Alas, too many GOP politicians appear content to instead follow their base down the anti-vax rabbit hole, which has resulted in the tragic coronavirus resurgence around the country, especially in red state regions.

Adding coronavirus vaccines to the list of currently mandated treatments for active-duty military would go a long way toward helping normalize it, which is a big part of the battle. Most of the reluctance to accepting the new vaccines comes from those who don't show any such hesitancy for vaccines against measles and other diseases that are already a routine part of American life and are even mandated for school children. Coronavirus vaccination should join that lineup.

Vaccine-hesitant people often cite the fact that the new vaccines were approved under an emergency-use process. The approval process had to be accelerated due to the deadly spread of the virus, but the vaccines have been in wide use since December—more than the six months generally needed for full approval—with no significant reports of adverse effects. Right-wing circus barkers who have falsely claimed otherwise, like Fox News' Tucker Carlson, have blood on their hands.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin says he will seek a waiver from a federal law to allow the military vaccine mandate if full Food and Drug Administration approval doesn't come before mid-September. For the sake of putting the argument to rest, full approval would be preferable. That is expected to happen within weeks. At that point, any debate about the validity of a military vaccination mandate should be over. As should the already-strained patience of the responsible majority of Americans who have been vaccinated, toward the irresponsible minority who continue to endanger everyone.

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A hawkish approach to Afghanistan wouldn't have worked, either

As the Taliban seize control of Kabul and indeed all of Afghanistan, it is worth pondering the less obvious lessons of this 20-year episode. It is a reminder of why I cannot bring myself to be a foreign policy hawk, even though I largely accept the hawks' worldview and underlying values.

Let's put aside whether or not you favor President Joe Biden's withdrawal, and note that sooner or later it was likely to happen. Former President Donald Trump had favored withdrawal, too, as had earlier Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Trump also negotiated toward that end. Barack Obama's administration also toyed with the idea of troop withdrawal.

Whether those have been sincere views or cynical posturings, U.S. leadership didn't exactly send signals of absolute, consistent support for the Afghan government. And thus the problem with foreign policy hawkism is this: American democracy is not very good at making long-term commitments outside our borders. It's not like the government's lasting support for, say, Social Security, which has many millions of voters expecting payments. The same can't be said about Afghanistan policy.

If a country can't make long-term commitments abroad, it can't easily reshape the world in its image, or see through hawkish policies. And indeed, the Taliban are in it for the long run and America is not, so it is no wonder they took over Afghanistan so quickly once the U.S. announced its departure. The Afghans on the ground understood the basic logic here much better than did the Biden administration.

America has made some successful long-term foreign policy commitments, for instance to Germany and South Korea. Those typically date from the Cold War and immediate post-World War II eras, and they are held in place partly by inertia. They also seem to be slowly crumbling. American voters are hardly calling for more such commitments.

The hawks I know, especially those with a politically conservative bent, typically will admit or perhaps even emphasize that the American electorate lacks the stomach for long-term interventions. But rather than consider the practical implications of such an admission, they too quickly flip into moralizing. We hear that the American citizenry is not sufficiently committed, or perhaps that non-conservative politicians are morally bankrupt, or that the Biden administration has made a huge mistake. But those moral claims, even if correct, are a distraction from the main lesson at hand. If your own country is not morally strong enough to see through your preferred hawkish policies, maybe those policies aren't going to prove

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.



sustainable, and thus they need to be scaled back.

I still largely agree with most of the hawk worldview: America can be a great force for good in the world, the notion of evil in global affairs as very real, America's main rivals on the global stage are up to no good, and there is an immense amount of naivete and wishful thinking in most of those who do not consider themselves hawks. What I do not see is a very convincing recipe for hawk policy success over time.

That all said, I still think the Biden withdrawal from Afghanistan was a policy mistake. The U.S. has allowed a very certain evil to rule about 38 million people, without constraint, and has damaged America's credibility. The Afghani future never looked promising, but sudden reversals of fortune do occur in world affairs—for instance the Irish peace process of the 1990s or the cessation of war in South America. Hoping for such a reversal, and extending the previous American commitment, seemed a better option. Perhaps the best chance for credibility was, from the beginning, to sell the American public on the notion of a permanent garrison, to forestall disaster, rather than nation-building.

The U.S. never had great options in the first place. In 2001, it was necessary to undertake some form of military action because the U.S. had been attacked from Afghanistan, and further attacks were planned. But when exactly was the right time to withdraw forces? It might have been some year earlier than this, but calculating all of the necessary counterfactuals has always been extremely difficult, and I am suspicious of those who claim to know the right answers with such confidence.

This debate involves a host of untenable views. One camp condemns America's Afghan interventions but offers few constructive alternatives. Another affiliates with hawkish values, but cannot enforce America's will. Yet another recognizes the fragility of the current situation, but does not wish to turn over the keys to evil right now and hopes to straggle toward a different set of alternatives.

Very reluctantly, I've signed up for the last option.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In the end, the Afghan army was always doomed

In 2006, as a Navy vice admiral, I was in Iraq traveling with Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld. At a town hall with U.S. troops, he famously answered a question about the U.S. Army's lack of armored vehicles by saying, "You go to war with the army you have—not the army you might want or wish to have at a later time." It was an honest but tone-deaf comment, and it was rattling through my mind over the weekend watching the stunning collapse of the Afghan security forces in the face of a Taliban onslaught.

After my Pentagon service, I ended up as the Supreme Allied Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. One of the key missions over four years, from 2009-2013, was to build an Afghan national army that could take over fighting from the 150,000 U.S. and International Security Assistance Force troops at the center of the fight with the Taliban. When we pulled out the final few thousand troops over the past several weeks, Afghanistan went to war with the "army we had," and it collapsed miserably.

Despite plenty of resources and talent, and over a decade of serious effort, the training mission clearly failed. Why? What is there to learn from this debacle?

Let's begin by pointing out that the effort failed in many separate aspects. First comes the lack of will and leadership on the part of the Afghan government and people. There are also many policy mistakes, including the failure to hold the Taliban to the agreement it negotiated with President Donald Trump's administration before taking U.S. troops out: the insistence on a "conditions-based withdrawal."

At the endgame, Western intelligence did not predict the rapidity of collapse, nor did our imagination encompass the determination and audacity of the Taliban. Pakistani havens just across the border played a part in this long drama, as did the underlying corruption that suffuses Afghan culture. But all of that would probably have been survivable if the Afghan army had fought capably.

In retrospect, we trained the wrong kind of army for Afghanistan. America and the ISAF tried desperately to use the U.S. army as the model, and it was the wrong approach. The U.S. way of war is very resource-rich: exquisite satellite-based intel-

ligence; high-end technology with precision guided firing; superb air cover (manned and drone) with nearly instantaneous response times; crisp and clear command and control that provided over-the-horizon connectivity; "on time" logistic systems that allowed fuel, food and ammunition to support combat operations; and "golden hour" medical evacuation to sophisticated hospitals. The Taliban had none of that, and while the U.S. was side-by-side with the Afghans, those local partners could fight—by relying on American support.

Think of the American revolution as an analogy: The U.S. and ISAF trained up an army of British redcoats, but what was really needed were more minutemen. We should have emphasized what might be called "Afghan-right" fighters, meaning forces that were far lighter, and could fight in decentralized teams, squads, light platoons and quick-maneuver companies. There is a strong combat DNA in many Afghans—they have all grown up in a war zone, after all, given the continuous conflicts stretching back to the 1980s (and, indeed, to previous centuries). The Western allies should have capitalized on that, building their own version of the Taliban's force.

In particular, the Afghans should have been organized into local, light-defense forces in and around their own villages, districts and provinces. People will fight much harder when it is their own family behind them. They needed simpler weapons and larger caches of ammunition, with less of the sophisticated communications gear (much of which is now being harvested for scrap at Bagram Air Base outside Kabul).

Like politics, all security is local; but instead the focus was on creating a "national army," seeking to use it as a tool to unify the nation. As we have seen, it simply did not work. In fairness, there was an attempt to create some local militias, but they were starved for resources that were committed to the big effort of creating a kind of "mini-me" force that looked better on paper than in combat.

It is instructive that the most successful of the domestic fighters for the past few years have been the 20,000 Afghan commandos. They resembled this philosophy of highly maneuverable troops able to move quickly, but were too few in number and still too reliant on U.S. air support and high-tech gear. By the end,

By JAMES STAVRIDIS

Bloomberg Opinion

James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a retired U.S. Navy admiral and former supreme allied commander of NATO, and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He is also chair of the board of the Rockefeller Foundation and vice chairman of Global Affairs at the Carlyle Group. His latest book is 2034: A Novel of the Next World War.



they had become exhausted, like the smokejumpers now battling fires all over the American West—too few, too tired.

A decade ago, we debated all this at senior levels, but kept coming back to a firmly held belief that we could succeed best by modeling what we knew and found comfortable: ducks like ducks, in the end. We did not sufficiently respect the culture, history, traditions and norms of this difficult nation. The Greeks have a word for it: hubris.

Will this collapse create a Taliban government that will welcome back al-Qaida? Perhaps they will have learned the lesson of allowing their land to become an ungoverned space. Given all the factions within their own movement, and the competing bastions of ethnic and regional actors, the Taliban will probably have imperfect control over their troubled nation. The only certainty of Taliban 2.0 is that the ultimate losers will be women and girls, who are on a rocket ride back to the 9th century, after briefly tasting the fruits of the modern, educated world.

You can hear the immense frustration in the voices of President Joe Biden and his team, saying in effect, "We gave them everything they needed, and they failed." There is truth in that. But Americans also need to admit that we built that failed army, over the course of 15 years. The Pentagon and civilian leadership must admit their part of this failure, and learn the lessons from those mistakes, for which the Afghan people will pay dearly. It was, tragically, the army we wanted. It just wasn't the right army to win.

As school districts require masks, we have to talk about the downsides for kids, too

The worst part of the debate over school mask mandates is how uncharitable it has become.

At the Fort Worth, Texas, school board meeting on Aug. 10, there were charges of racism, white supremacy and, effectively, homicide.

There is "blood on your hands," decried at least one parent, referring to those who didn't support a mask requirement for all public school students and staff.

The accusations weren't just hyperbolic and unfounded, they were subterfuge for the real and frank discussion about the tradeoffs of masking children, a conversation parents and school administrators should have been having instead.

It's especially needed now that the district reinstated a mask mandate in defiance of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's recent order (though a state district judge temporarily put the mandate on hold Friday).

But on a mass scale, and as the only available option for many single and working parents, virtual school caused students of all academic levels and socioeconomic backgrounds to fall behind. It hurt those in vulnerable and minority communities the most.

With the caveat that new information about COVID-19 is always emerging, we have also known for quite some time that children are not particular vectors of the disease and that they, particularly those of primary school age, seldom get seriously ill.

Kids are more likely to succumb to other childhood illnesses and are more at risk of sustaining severe injury in a moving vehicle than become ill from a lack of masks at school, federal data show.

But fear is a powerful mobilizer.

It can cause us to magnify certain risks and ignore others entirely.

We insist our kids mask up in public but we don't insist they exercise, or play outside or eat their veggies when, again according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, childhood obesity and its lifelong health implications hurt 20% of kids.

When we see headlines about pediatric intensive-care units filling up, we sometimes fail to register the information contained two paragraphs down that an unexpectedly bad and entirely out-of-season outbreak of the respiratory illness RSV is responsible for many child hospital admissions.

Last year, panic headlines kept kids out of schools, and we generally agree that the costs of that decision were too great to repeat.

This year, panic headlines will keep kids as young as 2 masked all day long in our schools.

Even if that is deemed to be the "correct" decision for our communities in these uncertain times, there has been far too little data and honest discussion about the potential consequences and costs.

Some universal mask proponents seem flippant, for example, about how masks affect nonverbal communication and how such communication is essential to childhood development, particularly among the youngest.

Others disregard the needs of children with learning differences or sensory disorders that make learning in a mask—or from a teacher in a mask—intolerably difficult.

But the most insidious cost to masking kids is the psychological damage caused by habituating kids to a world in which they

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.



are taught that they are both in danger and dangerous, when they are likely neither.

This is true for teenagers, many of whom already struggle to manage constant anxiety.

And it's an especially acute concern for young children who are not yet sophisticated enough to understand relative risk.






We generally fail to acknowledge the protective limitations of masks in the first place.

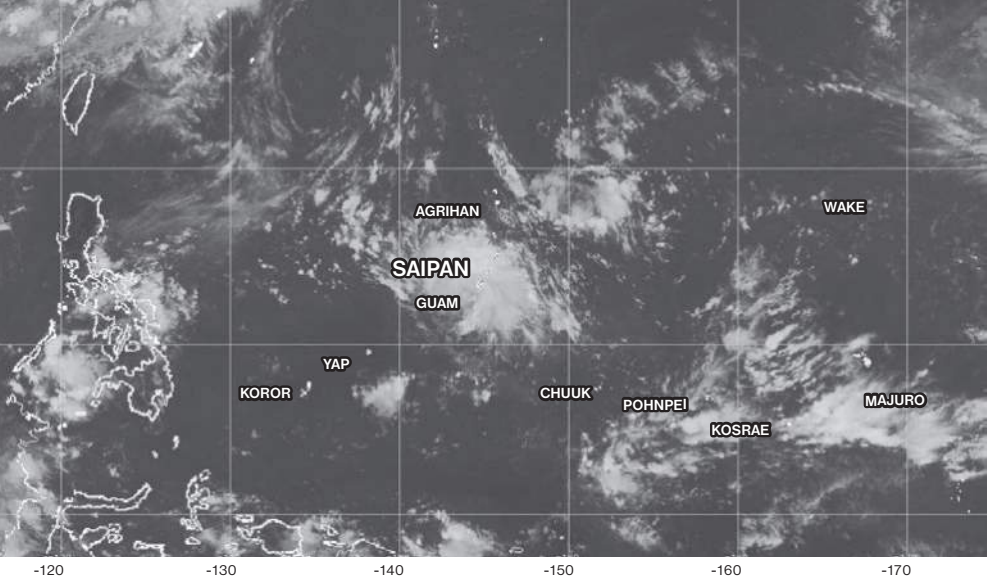
Data garnered from randomized controlled trials are inconclusive about just how effective masks are in stunting the spread of COVID, unless masks are of a certain kind and caliber (not the cloth ones most kids and their parents are wearing), worn properly, frequently changed and, if cloth, regularly cleaned.

But like so much about the mask debate, those important details are lost when discussions about mask use are steeped in fear and dishonest tropes.

The decision to mask kids in Fort Worth schools may have been the right one. But it should include a clear understanding of its costs.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Scattered light showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered light showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered light showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Partly sunny with scattered light showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:05 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows Tropical Depression 16W near 13.0N and 146.0E. Frequent showers associated with TD 16W will affect the Marianas today, moreso Guam and Rota. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east swell with some east wind waves on top of them.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	81 / 89 °F	
Palau	Rain	83 / 87 °F	
Yap	Mostly cloudy	82 / 90 °F	
Chuuk	Partly sunny	81 / 88 °F	
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	81 / 88 °F	
Kosrae	Mostly cloudy	81 / 86 °F	
Majuro	Partly sunny	81 / 86 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:25 AM	2:57 PM
Thursday	-	2:24 AM	3:59 PM
Friday	-	3:26 AM	4:58 PM
Saturday	-	4:29 AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	-	5:29 AM	6:39 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Afternoon clouds	43 / 52 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	71 / 86 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly sunny	83 / 92 °F	
Honolulu	Sunny	74 / 85 °F	
London	Sunny	54 / 69 °F	
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	64 / 79 °F	
Manila	Heavy rain	80 / 85 °F	
Melbourne	Afternoon clouds	51 / 60 °F	
Miami	Flash floods	82 / 89 °F	
New York	Mostly sunny	69 / 88 °F	
Osaka	Partly cloudy	76 / 92 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	56 / 70 °F	
Pusan	Morning clouds	81 / 88 °F	
Rome	Sunny	62 / 92 °F	
Salem	Cloudy	59 / 74 °F	
San Francisco	Morning clouds	57 / 71 °F	
Seoul	Afternoon clouds	76 / 93 °F	
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	81 / 97 °F	
Washington, DC	Showers	67 / 83 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:22 AM	High Tide	1.97	
10:10 AM	Low Tide	-0.05	
5:45 PM	High Tide	1.86	
10:35 PM	Low Tide	1.44	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021				
SAIPAN TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1202 8:00 8:15 Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1203 9:00 9:15 Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204 10:00 10:15 Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1205 11:00 11:15 Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1208 14:00 14:15 Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1209 15:00 15:15 Daily
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	1210 16:00 16:15 Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1211 17:00 17:15 Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
GUAM TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2102 8:30 8:45 Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2103 9:30 9:45 Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104 10:30 10:45 Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105 11:30 11:45 Daily
				2106 12:30 12:45 Temporarily Unavailable
				2107 13:30 13:45 Temporarily Unavailable
				2108 14:30 14:45 Daily
				2109 15:30 15:45 Daily
				2110 16:30 16:45 Daily
				2111 17:30 17:45 Daily
				2112 18:30 18:45 Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Lessons in back-to-school shopping for 2021

By **KIMBERLY PALMER**
NERDWALLET

For parents, the return to school means a return to spending: NerdWallet recently found that, in spite of the pandemic, about half of parents who plan to back-to-school shop this year expect to spend about the same as they normally would, with more of that spending going toward clothing than in 2020.

The pandemic has added new items to shopping lists. More schools are asking students to bring their own water bottles and in some cases larger quantities of items like pencils and crayons as teachers try to restock classrooms, says Charles Field, CEO of TeacherLists, which publishes close to 2 million supply lists provided by schools. It's also harder to find discounts on back-to-school items this year, he says, because of supply-chain challenges. "As retailers run out of stock, they're less likely to do super-low pricing, especially for things produced overseas," he says.

Despite those challenges, there are ways to keep costs under control. We asked parents and educators for their best strategies.

BEFORE SHOPPING, TAKE INVENTORY

Given that so many students have been in virtual or hybrid school during the pandemic, Nedra McDaniel, mom of two and founder of the blog Adventure Mom, suggests combing through what you currently have, both for school supplies and clothing. Kids



Back-to-school supplies await shoppers at a store in Marlborough, Mass., in this Saturday, July 11, 2020, file photo. This year's back-to-school shopping will include some unwanted lessons in dealing with supply-chain challenges.

AP PHOTO/BILL SIKES, FILE

might have outgrown some school clothes but not others, and you want those details before hitting the stores. "Or else you end up buying things you really don't need," McDaniel says. "I've come back and seen we have brand new scissors from last year."

She also suggests waiting to buy fall and winter clothes. They're likely to be on sale later in the season—and children might have grown by then anyway. "You don't have to rush out and get everything all at once," she

says. Jeans, for example, tend to go on sale in October. Keep a running list of what you need and sizes on your phone so you can take advantage of deals when you find them, McDaniel advises.

STOCK UP WHEN YOU SEE DISCOUNTS

Because of the pandemic's strain on the supply chain, Field says that retailers are running out of standard items kids may need, like binders, backpacks and notebooks. "Shop early this year," he

advises, and if you see discounts, don't wait to take advantage of them, because the products might be gone soon or restocked at higher prices. He also noticed back-to-school sales started earlier this year, perhaps as a result of Amazon Prime Day in June.

Alissa Davis, a parent and first grade teacher in Indianapolis, says that she finds deals by making bulk purchases of items like glue sticks, paper and pencils and then slowly using them up throughout the school year. "You never know when you'll have projects you need to work on at home, so

it's handy to have. You can buy in bulk and then spread it out over the next year or two," she says.

Davis, who also shares tips on her website, teachermom-lifeblog.com, says you don't need to wait until you get the supply lists. She buys when she sees discounts: "You can predict some things he will need or want, so watch the sales," she suggests. Some stores also offer bundled items at a discount, but sometimes they contain extra items you don't need. Similarly, schools sometimes offer a supply bundle for parents to purchase, but you may be able to pay less by shopping sales.

CHECK YOUR LOCAL GROCERY STORE

Davis says she's found some big sales recently at local grocery stores. "They get their back-to-school supplies and then want to make room for fall decor," she says, adding that grocery stores often have loyalty programs that give additional discounts. Some cash-back credit cards also offer grocery stores as a bonus category, which can layer on even more savings.

CONSIDER IN-STORE SHOPPING FOR SINGLE ITEMS

With online shopping, it's easy to compare prices and quickly add items from a school supply list. But that way, Field points out, you might not be able to purchase just one or two glue sticks, for example; you may have to buy a package with several. That approach might work if you're buying for multiple children, but if you want only one glue stick, then you'll likely find better deals when shopping in person.

ASK FOR HELP IF YOU NEED IT

Some items on the school supply list may not be essential or may not be needed until later in the school year. Davis suggests asking your child's teacher to help prioritize what they really need for the first day and what you can wait to buy. "There are some things I have stashed in a closet or leftovers I could distribute to students. Teachers can help you triage if you're in a jam," she says.

She adds that teachers may be able to point you toward community organizations that host supply drives if you need additional help.

US probing Autopilot problems on 765,000 Tesla vehicles

DETROIT (AP)—The U.S. government has opened a formal investigation into Tesla's Autopilot partially automated driving system after a series of collisions with parked emergency vehicles.

The investigation covers 765,000 vehicles, almost everything that Tesla has sold in the U.S. since the start of the 2014 model year. Of the crashes identified by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as part of the probe, 17 people were injured and one was killed.

NHTSA says it has identified 11 crashes since 2018 in which Teslas on Autopilot or Traffic Aware Cruise Control have hit vehicles at scenes where first responders have used flashing lights, flares, an illuminated arrow board

or cones warning of hazards. The agency announced the action Monday in a posting on its website.

The probe is another sign that NHTSA under President Joe Biden is taking a tougher stance on automated vehicle safety than under previous administrations. Previously the agency was reluctant to regulate the new technology for fear of hampering adoption of the potentially life-saving systems.

The investigation covers Tesla's entire current model lineup, the Models Y, X, S and 3 from the 2014 through 2021 model years.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which also has investigated some of the Tesla crashes dating to 2016, has recommended that

NHTSA and Tesla limit Autopilot's use to areas where it can safely operate. The NTSB also recommended that NHTSA require Tesla to have a better system to make sure drivers are paying attention. NHTSA has not taken action on any of the recommendations. The NTSB has no enforcement powers and can only make recommendations to other federal agencies.

"Today's action by NHTSA is a positive step forward for safety," NTSB Chair Jennifer L. Homendy said in a statement Monday. "As we navigate the emerging world of advanced driving assistance systems, it's important that NHTSA has insight into what these vehicles can, and cannot, do."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hyatt to buy resort manager Apple Leisure for \$2.7 billion

CHICAGO (AP)—Hyatt Hotels will buy resort-management company Apple Leisure Group from two private equity firms for \$2.7 billion. Apple Leisure manages about 100 resorts with more than 33,000 rooms in 10 countries. The acquisition will double Hyatt's presence in the resort business, the company said. Travel has surged this year with the arrival of vaccines for COVID-19, but mostly leisure travel. Hyatt is trying to capitalize on that increased mobility. Hyatt announced the deal with affiliates of private equity firms KKR and KSL Capital Partners on Sunday and said it will close in the fourth quarter. Apple Leisure's manages Secrets, Dreams and Breathless resorts. It also operates tour packages to Mexico and the Caribbean. Hyatt, based in Chicago, said it will fund the purchase from cash including the sale of \$2 billion in assets and has a \$1.7 billion financing commitment from J.P. Morgan.

Spirit Air says canceled flights cost \$50M, hurt bookings

Spirit Airlines said Monday the cancellation of more than 2,800 flights over an 11-day stretch this summer cost the budget airline about \$50 million in lost revenue and caused spending to soar. The airline said the service meltdown that started in late July and a rise in COVID-19 cases are causing more last-minute cancellations and softer bookings. Spirit said that it will reduce flights—it called the moves "tactical schedule reductions"—for the rest of the quarter, which ends Sept. 30. With all the cancellations, and now fewer flights for the next six weeks, Spirit estimated that its third-quarter revenue will range between \$885 million and \$955 million, or 4% to 11% below the same quarter in pre-pandemic 2019. Spirit's cancellation numbers have returned to more normal levels. However, the airline said that recovering from the crisis caused expenses to climb. (AP)

Nation

Biden: Afghan chaos 'gut-wrenching' but stands by withdrawal

WASHINGTON (AP)—A defiant President Joe Biden rejected blame for chaotic scenes of Afghans clinging to U.S. military planes in Kabul in a desperate bid to flee their home country after the Taliban's easy victory over an Afghan military that America and NATO allies had spent two decades trying to build.

At the White House, Biden on Monday called the anguish of trapped Afghan civilians "gut-wrenching" and conceded the Taliban had achieved a much faster take-

over of the country than his administration had expected. The U.S. rushed in troops to protect its own evacuating diplomats and others at the Kabul airport.

But the president expressed no second thoughts about his decision to stick by the U.S. commitment, formulated during the Trump administration, to end America's longest war, no matter what.

"I stand squarely behind my decision" to finally withdraw

U.S. combat forces, Biden said, while acknowledging the Afghan collapse played out far more quickly than the most pessimistic public forecasts of his administration. "This did unfold more quickly than we anticipated," he said.

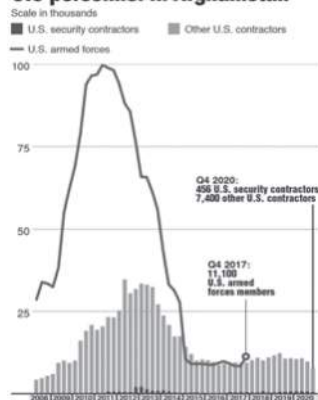
Despite declaring "the buck stops with me," Biden placed almost all blame on Afghans for the shockingly rapid Taliban conquest.

His grim comments were



Biden

U.S. personnel in Afghanistan



his first in person to the world since the biggest foreign pol-

icy crisis of his still-young presidency. Emboldened by the U.S. withdrawal, Taliban fighters swept across the country last week and captured the capital, Kabul, on Sunday, sending U.S.-backed Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fleeing the country.

Biden said he had warned Ghani—who was appointed Afghanistan's president in a U.S.-negotiated agreement—to be prepared to fight a civil war with the Taliban after U.S. forces left. "They failed to do any of that," he said.

Internationally, the spectacle of the Taliban takeover and the chaos of the evacuation effort was raising doubts about America's commitments to its allies.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said it was "bitter" to watch the complete collapse in a war that Germany and other NATO partners had followed the U.S. into after the Sept. 11 attacks, which were plotted from Afghanistan. The humiliating scenes seemed certain to give comfort to American foes.

Gusty winds bring new worries to California fire lines

QUINCY, Calif. (AP)—Firefighters battling flames in Northern California forests girded Monday for new bouts of windy weather, and a utility warned thousands of customers it might cut their electricity to prevent new fires from igniting if gusts damage power lines.

Conditions that suppressed the huge Dixie Fire overnight gave way in the afternoon to gusty winds that pushed flames through an area where drought and summer heat have turned vegetation to tinder.

The fire was only a few miles from Susanville, the county seat of Lassen County with a population of nearly 20,000, and ash fell in the area. Portions of Janesville, a small nearby mountain community, were ordered to evacuate.

Bulldozers had cut fire lines in the path of the northward-trending blaze but "a lot of our lines are getting tested now," fire spokesman David Janssen said.

Smoke over the fire had slowed its activity earlier in the day but gusty winds ar-

rived in the afternoon, pushing the blaze into extreme activity, torching groups of trees and quickly propelling smaller spot fires that sprang up as much as a couple of miles ahead of the fire front, fire officials said.

"By the time we get there to fight it, it's not only a quarter-acre, it's already exploded," Janssen said.

The National Weather Service issued a fire weather watch through Thursday in the fire area because of winds that could gust to 35 mph (56 kph) at times.



A worker blocks CA-89 highway to Canyon Dam in Plumas County, Calif., that was impacted by the Dixie Fire Friday, Aug. 13, 2021.

AP

ACROSS THE NATION

Nevada governor: No masks at events that require vaccines

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Large events held in Nevada can add themselves to the growing number of places in the U.S. where people in crowds are asked to prove they have been inoculated against COVID-19, the governor said Monday. Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak said that large indoor venues in cities like Las Vegas and Reno will be allowed to opt out of the state's mask requirements if they verify their guests are vaccinated. "This is cutting edge. There's no other venues in the country that are doing this," Sisolak said. "I think it is going to get people more people wanting to go to an event because they know that when they walk in that arena, or that stadium, everybody's vaccinated." Venues with capacities greater than 4,000 will be eligible for the exemption. Partially vaccinated people and children ineligible to receive vaccines can attend venues that opt in, but must remain

masked. Sisolak made clear that the policy was not a mandate and was voluntary for venues.

3 shot dead outside San Antonio sports bar; suspect arrested

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A man was arrested Monday on a capital murder warrant in the shooting of five people, three fatally, outside a San Antonio sports bar following an argument, police said. The shooting happened about 3:30 a.m. Sunday in the Boom Boom Sports Bar parking lot, Police Chief William McManus said. "An individual went to the car, got a gun—a long gun—came back, shot five people in the parking lot," McManus said. Witnesses identified the gunman as Daniel Barragan, 34, who was arrested on a capital murder warrant during a Monday traffic stop and booked without bond in the Bexar County Jail. Jail records listed no attorney to speak for Barragan. All of the victims were in their 20s and 30s, McManus said.



NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Thursday, August 19, 2021
4:30 p.m. @ NMTI Facility, Lower Base

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Adoption of Minutes – July 15, 2021 & July 30, 2021
- V. Old Business
 - a. Letter to Governor Re: Property Proposal – For BoT Signature
 - b. Standing Committee Listing inclusive of NMTI Staff
 - c. Review Process of Nomination Committee – Trustee C. Attao
 - d. 36 Adult High School Student Completion Plan for Discussion
 - e. Interim CEO Appraisal
- VI. CEO's Report – Jodina Attao
 - a. SY 2021-2022 Updates
 - i. Calendar I Course Schedule
 - ii. Tuition & Fees
 - iii. Enrollment
 - b. Office of Public Auditor Meeting Results & Recommendations
 - c. Department of Public Works in lieu with Capital Improvement Projects – NMTI Roof Replacement Project
 - d. Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) Workforce Development Training Scholarship Program (WDTSP)
 - i. Establishing Financial Aid Office within NMTI
- VII. Treasurer's Report – Trustee Faisao
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Nomination Committee Activation for reappointment or replacement of Chairman Valentino and Trustee Irene Holl
 - b. Nomination and Election for Acting Chair and Vice Chair
- IX. Executive Session
 - a. Board Review of NMTI Personnel Files – Contracts I Resumes
- X. Adjournment



Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

Pursuant to its by-laws, as amended, the annual meeting of shareholders of Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. will be held virtually/Zoom on Tuesday, August 30, 2021 at 09:00 A.M., Ch.S.T.

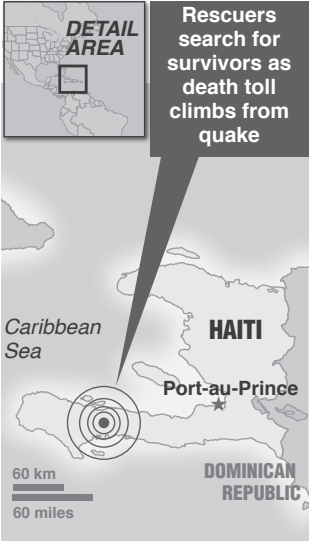
Please contact Rose Taimanglo at (671) 727-9666 or by email at lease@abtower.com to receive remote access instructions. Shareholders will not be able to attend the meeting at a physical location.

World

Haiti quake death toll rises to 1,419, injured now at 6,000

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP)—A hospital in southwestern Haiti, where a powerful earthquake flattened homes, shops and other buildings over the weekend, was so overwhelmed with patients that many had to lie in patios, corridors, verandas and hallways. Then a looming storm expected to bring heavy rains Monday night forced officials to relocate them as best they could given the hospital's poor conditions.

Even those patients were somewhat fortunate. Haiti's Civil Protection Agency on Monday raised the death toll from Saturday's earthquake



to 1,419 and the number of injured to 6,000, many of whom have had to wait under the burning heat, even on an airport tarmac, for help.

"We had planned to put up tents (in hospital patios), but we were told that could not be safe," said Gede Peterson, director of Les Cayes General Hospital.

It is not the first time that staff has been forced to improvise. The refrigeration in

the hospital's morgue has not worked for three months, but after the earthquake struck Saturday, staff had to store as many as 20 bodies in the small space. Relatives quickly came to take most to private embalming services or immediate burial. By Monday only three bodies were in the morgue.

The quake, centered about 125 kilometers (80 miles) west of the capital of Port-

au-Prince, nearly razed some towns and triggered landslides that hampered rescue efforts in a country that is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti already was struggling with the coronavirus pandemic, gang violence, worsening poverty and the political uncertainty following the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse when the earthquake sent residents rushing to

the streets.

The devastation could soon worsen with the arrival of Tropical Depression Grace, predicted to bring strong winds, heavy rain, mudslides and flash flooding. Les Cayes began to see light rain Monday evening, but it could reach 15 inches (38 centimeters) in some areas, the Civil Protection Agency said. Port-au-Prince was already seeing heavier rains.

Malaysian PM resigns

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin resigned on Monday after less than 18 months in power, apologizing for his shortcomings but blaming those "hungry for power."

Muhyiddin conceded that he had lost majority support to govern, making him the country's shortest-ruling leader.

"I have tendered my resignation as prime minister and also for the entire Cabinet...because I have lost the majority support of lower house members," he said in a televised final message after meeting the king.

"I take this opportunity to seek forgiveness ... for all my mistakes and weaknesses during my tenure as prime minister. I and my Cabinet colleagues have tried our best to save and protect lives ... in this period of crisis. However,

er, as a human being, we are bound to make mistakes so I apologize."

He said he had hoped to stay on until the country's coronavirus vaccination program is completed and the economy has recovered, but was thwarted by those "hungry for power."

Muhyiddin's departure plunges the country into a new crisis amid a worsening COVID-19 outbreak. Political leaders have already begun to jostle for the top post, with his deputy, Ismail Sabri, rallying support to succeed Muhyiddin and keep the government intact.

The palace said the king, Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, accepted Muhyiddin's resignation and appointed him as caretaker prime minister until a successor is found, in line with the constitution.

AS TALIBAN PATROL CAPITAL
Kabul airport plunges into chaos

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Thousands of Afghans rushed into Kabul's main airport Monday, some so desperate to escape the Taliban that they held onto a military jet as it took off and plunged to their deaths. At least seven people died in the chaos, U.S. officials said, as America's longest war ended with its enemy the victor.

The crowds came while the Taliban enforced their rule over the capital of 5 million people after a lightning advance across the country that took just over a week to dethrone the country's Western-backed government. There were no major reports of abuses or fighting, but many residents stayed home and remained fearful after the insurgents' takeover saw prisons emptied and armories looted.

A resolute U.S. President Joe Biden said he stood "squarely behind" his decision to withdraw American forces and acknowledged the "gut-wrenching" images unfolding in Kabul. Biden said he faced a choice between honoring a previously negotiated withdrawal agreement or sending thousands more troops back to begin a third decade of war.

"After 20 years, I've learned the hard way that there was never a good time to withdraw U.S. forces," Biden said in a televised address from the White House.

The president said American troops should not be fighting and dying in a war "that Afghan forces are not willing to fight for themselves." He warned the Taliban not to interfere with the evacuation efforts.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† Jose San Nicolas Muna

Fondly known as "Ping"

Born on September 03, 1945

Was called to eternal rest on August 14, 2021

Now join his parents:

Parents: †Tobias D. Muna & +Estephania SN. Muna

Siblings: †Angelina SN. Muna (Kangkang); †Nicolas SN. Muna; †Rosita M. Villar; †Yoshiyuki Onuki

In-laws: †Arimitsu Nishimura, †Ramon Tudela, †Isidro A. Sablan, †Isabel C. Taitano, †Sabino R. Cabrera, †Vicente R. & †Juliana T. Cabrera, †Juan R. Cabrera

God daughter: †Grace Yukari M. Nishimura

Survived by:

Wife: Soledad (Darlene) C. Muna

Children & grandchildren:

Ray Anthony R. & Julie C. Cabrera (Dylan C. Cabrera, Devyn C. Cabrera, & KeyannahYvette C. Cabrera)

Joseph C. & Janice M. Muna (Joseph Zacarias M. Muna)

Adam & Janella M. Cruz (Joseph John M. Cruz, Jerome Jude M. Cruz, & Jarin Adam Cruz)

Joleen C. Muna (Javan C. Muna, Divine Soledad C. Muna, & Vinci M. Norita)

Edwin Joseph C. Muna & Alaysha Kileleman (Emery Jose K. Muna)

(Reared): John King & Children, Edwin/Dina Cabrera & family, Laura Lee & family

Best Friends: Juan Diego "Morgan" B. Tenorio and Absalon Waki

Siblings and In-laws:

Sophia M. Fejeran & family

James/Daria M. Kintol & family

Antonio/Patricia Muna & family

Asunta Sn Muna & family

David/Etsuko Muna & family

Victoria Sn. Muna & family

Ricardo/Percy Muna & family

Tito/Elena M. Salas & family

Edward/Irene Muna & family

Fabian/Eladia Muna & family

Patricia M. Nishimura & family

Alejandro/Victorina R. Cabrera & family

Angelina C. Sablan & family

Joseph and Dolores (Loling) C. Cruz & family

Virginia Cabrera & family

He will also be missed by his numerous, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are celebrated every morning at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, August 21, 2021. His remains will be at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, and recitation of the Holy Rosary starts at 7:00am. Our beloved, Jose will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church at 8:00 am for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

SI YU'US MAASE / THANK YOU

Soledad "Daling" Cabrera Muna, Children and Family

Good Housekeeping

How do I get rid of ants?

By TOM MOOR
ANGIE'S LIST

Although ants generally don't cause harm to people—they don't carry disease, like some other pests—an infestation can be a major nuisance.

"Ants can be extremely persistent creatures, seemingly coming from nowhere and can be difficult to entirely get rid of," says Kelly Garvin of Greenix Pest Control in Dublin, Ohio.

Fortunately, DIY and professional pest removal options are available.

REASONS FOR ANT INFESTATION

Ants typically invade your home for one reason: food. Most feed on sugary or greasy items.

Sugar ants—also called odorous house ants—are one of the most common ant invaders and among the first pests to show up in the spring. They're about one-eighth of an inch or smaller and are attracted to food sources.

The common pavement ant, which is brown to black and about 1/10th of an inch long, will set up colonies near driveways or patios and then send

out scouts to search for food in your home. They eat meat, grease, seeds, dead or live insects, and can sting and bite if disturbed.

Carpenter ants, which are black and up to half an inch long, look for protein rather than sugar, and will eat through wood to find nesting locations. Small piles of wood shavings called "frass" found under windows or door frames are signs of carpenter ants.

Moisture ants are larger—about 4 to 4.5 mm long—and are usually an indication of excessive water somewhere. Either can be a problem in bathrooms.

Knowing what type of ant you're dealing with can help you prevent or combat an infestation.

KEEPING ANTS OUT

The first step to prevent an ant infestation: clean house. If you see scout ants in your home, kill them immediately. Make sure you don't leave any food out and keep all kitchen surfaces clean.

If you continue to see ants, make sure you've closed off possible entry points, including sealing small cracks in your walls or under windows. Start

by caulking potential entry points, such as window casings.

Next, you can lay down barriers like salt or talc under doors to turn ants away, or apply scents such as vinegar, peppermint oil or cinnamon. Bear in mind, however, that anything you put down will also be of interest to pets and children, so be careful what you use.

DIY METHODS FOR ANT REMOVAL

If ant explorers have morphed into a full-on colony, then you need a plan.

Start with soap and water. This will not only kill chemical trails, but any ants it touches. Add citrus to the water to increase its effectiveness.

You can also purchase pest sprays and baited ant traps from local grocery and hardware stores. These use a mixture of sugars and ant poison, such as boric acid to attract, trap and kill ants. Proceed with caution when using poison.

Bear in mind, too, that these traps won't work on protein-feeders like carpenter ants, since the sweetness won't interest them.

In addition to trapping ants inside,

you can also spray around the exterior of the home where the house meets the pavement or ground to prevent more ants from infiltrating, says David Anderson of Eastside Exterminators in Woodinville, Washington.

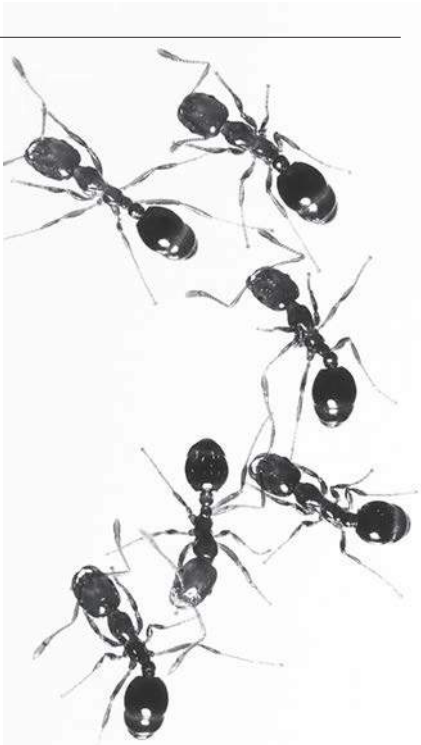
Garvin recommends spraying problem areas with a mixture of Windex, vinegar and water. She says spreading Diatomaceous Earth in carpeted areas around the bathroom is a safe and natural way to kill ants because it's a food source.

"The Windex or vinegar is really a quick fix and not really that effective, but it will remove the immediate ants and wipe away their pheromone scent they use to follow trails," Garvin says.

Dan Miles, owner of Total Exterminating in Indianapolis, suggests spraying all cracks around the baseboards and the base of the toilet if the infestation is in the bathroom.

HIRE A PEST CONTROL PROFESSIONAL

Large-scale infestations require assistance from a pest control professional.



Although ants generally don't cause harm to people—they don't carry disease, like some other pests—an infestation can be a major nuisance. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pros address ant problems by locating the colony itself; typically this starts by laying bait traps, which contain poisoned food taken back to the nest. Once found, exterminators can use a variety of techniques including chemical sprays to totally eliminate the ants in your home.



Although ants generally don't cause harm to people—they don't carry disease, like some other pests—an infestation can be a major nuisance. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DESIGN RECIPES: Try these easy color tips

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

For many homeowners, color often seems scary. What color do you use? In which room? Will you make the wrong choice?

When it comes to color, the good news is it's both easy and hard to make a mistake. Looking for some easy color tips? Here are some general rules of thumb.

- DO'S**
 - 1 Use tints, tones and shades of the same color in a space.
 - 2 Use artwork to help set a mood or introduce a color theme.
 - 3 Use portable decor like toss pillows and throws to integrate color you can swap in or out.
 - 4 Consider an accent wall over all-over color if you are afraid to take the plunge and to paint an entire area.
- 5 Consider unexpected color combinations such as retro colors, which remain on trend.**DON'TS**
 - 1 Don't blend a color palette of more than three colors in same space. Often, less is more.
 - 2 Don't overlook monochromatic color schemes. Light colors can especially feel crisp and fresh.

- 3 Don't overlook the opportunity to set a mood with color. Cool colors are calming, while warm colors can be cozy.
- 4 Don't forget small opportunities to bring pops of color into a space such as small pieces of furniture like side tables and chairs.
- 5 Don't overlook proven color combinations like colors adjacent to either other or opposite on the color wheel.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Chili Steak With Hawaiian Rice

This 20-minute meal is full of flavor, but low on effort. Save leftover cooked white rice for quick weeknight meals like this.

- 1 1/2 pounds skirt steak
 - 2 teaspoons chili powder
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons grated lime peel
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 2 cups fresh pineapple, chopped
 - 1 cup packed fresh cilantro leaves, finely chopped
 - 3 cups cooked white rice
- 1 Heat outdoor grill on medium-high.
 - 2 Rub skirt steak with chili powder, lime peel and salt. Grill 3 to 4 minutes per side or until desired doneness.
 - 3 Transfer to a cutting board and let stand 5 minutes. Meanwhile, toss pineapple with the cilantro leaves and white rice.
 - 4 Thinly slice the steak and serve with rice. Garnish with lime wedges. Serves 4.

*Each serving: About 500 calories, 19g fat (7g saturated), 42g protein, 45g carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 430mg sodium. For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.good-housekeeping.com/food-recipes/. © 2021 Hearst Communications, Inc.

Life & Style

Selma Blair says she's in remission from multiple sclerosis

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Selma Blair says she's in remission from multiple sclerosis as a result of undergoing a stem cell transplant.

The 49-year-old actor, best known for such movies as "Cruel Intentions," "Legally Blonde" and "Hellboy," was diagnosed with the dis-

ease in 2018.

"My prognosis is great. I'm in remission," Blair told a Television Critics Association panel on Monday.

She underwent hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation which uses stem cells derived from bone marrow, peripheral blood or umbilical cord blood.

"It took about a year after stem cell for the inflammation and lesions to really go down, so I was reluctant to talk about it because I felt this need to be more healed," she said. "I don't have any new lesions forming."

According to the Mayo Clinic, multiple sclerosis is an autoimmune disease in which



Selma Blair arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party on Feb. 24, 2019, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION/AP

Robert Durst says he lied, penned 'cadaver' note to police

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Robert Durst knew it would look bad if he was discovered to have written a note with the word "cadaver" directing police to the lifeless body of his best friend.

So the New York real estate heir lied about it for years.

Durst admitted publicly for the first time Monday at this murder trial that he had, in fact, penned the note, though he denied killing Susan Berman.

Durst said it was so hard to fathom that the author of the note and Berman's killer were not the same person that even he questioned the plausibility of what he was telling jurors.

"I mean I have difficulty believing it myself," he testified in Los Angeles County Superior Court. "It's very difficult to believe, to accept, that I wrote the letter and did not kill Susan Berman."

The note is one of the only pieces of evidence linking him to Berman's killing and Durst used his fourth day of testimony to try to convince jurors he unwittingly discovered her body and then

tried to alert police without drawing suspicion.

Durst, 78, the estranged eccentric heir to a commercial real estate fortune in New York, is charged with murder in Berman's December 2000 killing.

Durst is expected to be grilled later during cross-examination on what prosecutors say were dozens of lies and inconsistencies on the witness stand.

"He has perjured himself probably 100 times and that's not hyperbole," Deputy District Attorney John Lewin said while jurors were out of the courtroom.

In their efforts to prove his motive, Los Angeles prosecutors have introduced evidence Durst killed his wife in New York in 1982 and that the fatal shooting of his neighbor in Texas in 2001 was not merely an accident.

Prosecutors say Durst silenced Berman before she could tell New York investigators how she provided a false alibi when Kathie Durst vanished.

Durst has denied killing his first wife and has never

been charged with a crime connected with her disappearance. Her body has never been found, but she has been legally declared dead.

In 2001, the year after New York police reopened the Kathie Durst investigation and about nine months after Berman's killing, Durst fatally shot his neighbor in a Galveston, Texas, boarding house. Prosecutors said Durst, who had gone into hiding there disguised as a mute woman, killed Black because the older man discovered his true identity.

He was acquitted of murder after testifying he shot Black in self-defense during a struggle for a gun. He was convicted of destroying evidence for chopping up Black's body and tossing it out to sea.

Durst, who skipped bail while awaiting trial in Galveston before eventually being arrested for shoplifting a sandwich in Pennsylvania, testified that he considered committing suicide while he was on the run.

"I was going to shoot myself because I couldn't imagine being a fugitive," he said.

the immune system attacks the protective myelin sheath that covers nerve fibers. It can cause vision loss, pain, fatigue and impaired coordination. Its cause is unknown.

"There's still maintenance, treatment and glitches, and wonderful things," said Blair, who at times spoke in a halting voice on Zoom.

"Cognitively, I'm very changed and that's been the harder part," she added.

The actor reveals her fight with MS in "Introducing, Selma Blair," an intimate documentary directed by Rachel Fleit. It debuts Oct. 15 in theaters and begins streaming Oct. 21 on Discovery+.

"Selma was ready to tell this story in all of its honesty and rawness and truth," Fleit said. "She had a few medi-

cal emergencies during filming. When she was like, 'Yes, show it all,' I was like, 'This is extraordinary.'"

Last week, actor Christina Applegate, who is the same age as Blair, revealed her own MS diagnosis.

Blair said she had been experiencing symptoms for years before she was officially diagnosed.

"I've been carrying around some sort of chronic illness, either building up or had for a long time, so it wasn't a surprise to me," she said. "Just the name was a surprise."

Blair is a single mother to her 10-year-old son, Arthur, whom she credits as the source of her strength. Her mother, Molly Ann Cooke, died in May 2020 at age 82. Blair was unable to visit her in her home

state of Michigan because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I really do feel now, with this pandemic, we've all gotten a kind of diagnosis that's incurable. It's called living right now," she said. "Everyone has really realized our mortality. It taught me a lot more patience and understanding."

At times, Blair said, she wishes she could go home to Michigan and recover quietly. But she also relishes her ability to raise awareness and provide encouragement to others.

"I never really liked life, I do now. Strange, huh?" she said. "I was so scared in life, so to suddenly start to find an identity and a safety in me, and figure out boundaries and time management and energy, I'm having the time of my life."

Wife must seek support for husband's silent abuse

DEAR ABBY: I have known my husband for eight years. We've been married for four. Abby, my husband rapes me while I'm asleep. I have told him how it makes me feel, because I was molested when I was younger. When my second child was conceived, I don't even remember doing anything. He never did this when we were dating. We do things every now and again, but NOT how we used to. I'm the first in my family to get married and have kids, so I'm afraid if I leave him I'll be breaking my vows and setting a bad example. What should I do?

SILENT VICTIM IN GEORGIA

DEAR SILENT VICTIM: In case you are unaware of it, Georgia has strict laws that treat marital rape the same as rape between two strangers. This means that when dealing with marital rape charges, claiming that the defendant is married to the victim cannot be used as a defense. If you haven't already done it, obtain birth control to prevent you from becoming pregnant without your consent again. Contact the Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network (rainn.org; 800-656-4673) and let a counselor there know what has been going on. Then consult a lawyer, get out of there and don't look back!

■■■

DEAR ABBY: We have a family wedding coming later this

year that we're all very happy about. We are, however, concerned about one family member's drinking. This person already has a "larger than life" personality that is amplified when they drink. The bride's family has, for several reasons, chosen not to have an open bar. A limited selection of alcohol will be offered.

Our concern is this family member will become loud, disruptive and embarrassing. Should we address this ahead of time with the family member, which will be uncomfortable, but will hopefully head off a disruption at the reception? Or should we cross our fingers and take our chances that they will realize they should be on their best behavior?

BRACING OURSELVES IN TENNESSEE

DEAR BRACING: When in doubt, speak out. Sometimes crossing one's fingers and hoping for the best is not enough of a precaution. In a case like this, leave nothing to chance.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are good friends with another couple. One of them is having an affair, which is destroying their family. The cheater has lied to us repeatedly trying to cover their tracks. We all know the truth. How can we continue being friends when we do not condone these behaviors? It's difficult because the friendship is long, rooted in community and we care deeply for them all.

AWKWARD IN THE SOUTH

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR AWKWARD: Step back and stay out of the line of fire. Whether the marriage will survive is anybody's guess. If it fails, be as supportive to the spouse as you can. However, if the cheater continues his/her relationship with the lover, because you don't condone "those behaviors" you may choose to change your behavior. See the new couple "because of community ties" on a far less frequent or intimate basis.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

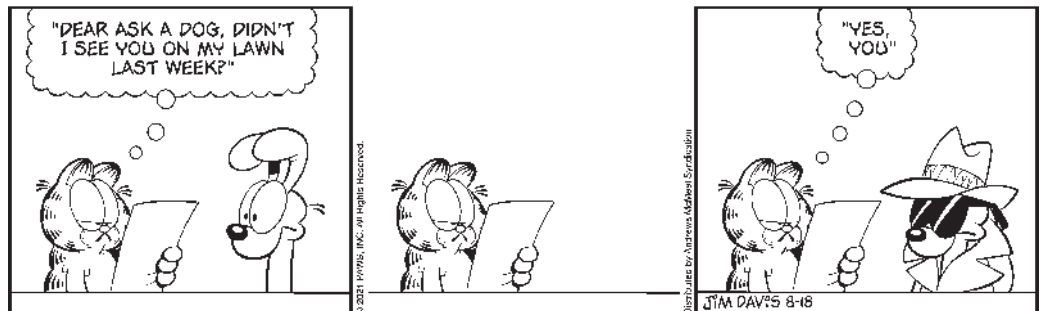
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lass
4 Magic dragon
8 Fall bloomers
12 MLB stat
13 Writer James
14 Desire
15 Pitcher's pride
16 Oscar-winning 2011 black-and-white film
18 Storybook elephant
20 Youngster
21 London neighborhood
24 Fake drake
28 Historic mission
32 Medieval letter
33 Actor Linden
34 High-five sounds
36 Sony rival
37 Jai —
39 South American chain

DOWN

1 Seize
2 "East of Eden" girl
3 Branch
4 Security guard's assignments
5 "Gross!"
6 Service charge
7 Accomplishment
8 Grumble
9 Swiss canton
10 Brit.
11 Congeal
17 Scepter
19 Smile
22 Sentry's cry
23 D-Day beach
25 It gets in the whey
26 Formerly
27 Pro votes
28 Spring meltdown
29 Robust
30 Flair
31 Oil cartel
35 Tennis champ
36 Grumble
38 Mountaineering tool
40 Opposite of paleo
42 Pajama-clad mag founder
45 New newts
47 Shoelace snarl
48 Roof overhang
49 Not barefoot
50 Texter's "Enough!"
51 Owns
52 Compass dir.
53 Small battery
54 Little rascal

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Madeline Petsch, 27; Anna Akana, 32; Andy Samberg, 43; Robert Redford, 85.

Happy Birthday: Stick to your plan and finish what you start. Do whatever it takes to accommodate trends. Align yourself with people who have something to offer. Look at your strengths, and find a way to use them appropriately. Do your best, and make the most of your skills and your time. A steady pace forward will lead to better days ahead. Your numbers are 7, 12, 19, 23, 30, 38, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to your original plans, regardless of what others do, and an opportunity will present itself. Utilize your ability to take charge physically, and you'll gain respect and the support you require to head in the direction you desire. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have tunnel vision when it comes to getting what you want. Your mind is overworking, and your ability to source out what you need to get ahead will be on target. The time is right to bring about change. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A partnership opportunity looks interesting, but ask pertinent questions and get what you want in writing. Someone will lead you to believe you are getting a better deal than what's on the table. Be aware of someone trying to butter you up. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't upset a friend or family member. If something isn't right, fix it yourself. Draw on experience to get things done on time. The less interference, the sooner you'll reach your target,

and the better you will feel about starting something new. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a moment to consider how to use your time and money efficiently. Trying to outdo someone can turn into a costly venture. Use your intelligence and physical attributes to get your way. Accept the inevitable, and keep moving forward. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change will give you a boost. Whether you make a move, redecorate or make your space more comfortable, the impact it has on you will ease stress and make you happy. Don't wait for someone to make the first move. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep your emotions tucked away someplace safe. Focus inward on personal growth and physical improvements, and you will enhance your morale and gain the confidence to follow through with your plans. Don't miss an opportunity. Do what's best for you. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a closer look at your finances. Go over your expenses and consider where you can cut corners. Taking care of such matters to suit your lifestyle will relieve stress and help you put your money to better use. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Gathering information from a reliable source will help you eliminate being taken advantage of by someone persuasive or manipulative. Refuse to let anyone put you down or make you feel less equipped to make decisions for yourself. ***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		4				2				
				2	4					
7	2	1		5		4	6	8		
2			7	4	1			9		
1				2				6		
	7			3			4			
		8		9		6				
	3			6			8			
6	2	3		5	9	7				

Difficulty Level ***

8/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	5	2	3	4	8	7	1	6
3	8	1	7	6	9	4	2	5
6	7	4	2	5	1	8	9	3
1	4	8	9	3	6	5	7	2
5	2	9	8	1	7	3	6	4
7	3	6	5	2	4	1	8	9
8	9	5	4	7	2	6	3	1
2	6	3	1	8	5	9	4	7
4	1	7	6	9	3	2	5	8

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): List what you want to pursue and knock off one thing at a time. Pay attention to detail, and leave nothing to chance. The change you bring about will help you find more efficient and frugal ways to live life comfortably. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll obtain fascinating insight into solutions that help you make medical, financial or contractual improvements. Don't let someone take the lead or push you in a direction that allows them more leverage than it does you. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Call in the best of the best and work side by side to advocate for a cause you want to help. Your input and enthusiasm will lead to new beginnings and better friendships. A positive change will encourage additional income. ****

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, fun-loving and original. You are precise and motivated.

©: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ***: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ****: Aim high; start new projects. *****: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

AT A FESTIVAL

Solution: 8 letters

S S T I S N A R T A L E N T R
M C E F A I R S E T S T N E T
C A H S D A E P S P I V G P G
E C R E I B L I C M A U E I
L A M K D R R L A N A H R G
E L I N E U P S E A Y L C M S
B E E R O T L R M R O S R I Y
R N C T A S I E U Y B O O T S
A D C N E R S I E U S A M T G T
T A I A E Y T T G P N M U A E
I R S T D I E I U A D E L G M
O O U E A R C E S M S A A I S
N P M I R H S S N T G T N R F
R O D N E V L O G I S T I C S
C S K C A N S A L S W O H S E

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Area, Artists, Bands, Beer, Best, Boots, Calendar, Camper, Celebration, Comedy, Dance, Fairs, Film, Gala, Gigs, Guest, Lineups, List, Logistics, Manager, Maps, Marketing, Meal, Media, Music, Oyster, Permit, Plays, Schedules, Science, Season, Shows, Shrimp, Snacks, Stage, Surprises, Systems, Talent, Tents, Torch, Tourist, Transit, Umbrella, Vendor, VIPs, Wine

Yesterday's Answer: Princeton

Treasures 23 through 43 can be purchased online at
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STUMPED?

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Hendriks gets save as White Sox beat Athletics, 5-2



CHICAGO (AP)—Michael Kopech got the ball to Craig Kimbrel, and he handed it over to Liam Hendriks.

The Chicago White Sox like their chances when they go to their bullpen.

Kimbrel worked out of a jam in the eighth inning and Hendriks got the save against his former team, leading the White Sox to a 5-2 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Monday night.

"We got some weapons out there. You saw three of them tonight," manager Tony La Russa said.

Eloy Jiménez hit a tiebreaking RBI single and Seby Zavala drove in two runs as Chicago improved to an AL-best 40-22 at home. It was the first meeting between the teams since the A's eliminated the White Sox in the first round of the playoffs last year.

Luis Robert homered, and Dallas Keuchel (8-6) pitched five innings of two-run ball in his first win since July 9.

Oakland dropped to 4-3 on a 10-game trip after it lost two of three at last-place Texas over the weekend. It also fell to second in the AL wild-card standings, a half-game back of idle Boston and 1 1/2 games ahead of the New York Yankees.

Matt Chapman homered for the third straight day for the A's, and Mark Canha had an RBI single. Frankie Montas (9-9) was charged with three runs and eight hits in five innings.

"I felt like I was fighting with my mechanics the whole game," Montas said. "I didn't have my command."

The game was tied at 2 when Jiménez's fifth-inning liner went off Chapman's glove at third and into left field, driving in Tim Anderson from second. The AL Central leaders added another run in the sixth on a safety squeeze bunt by Zavala.

That was enough for Chicago's bullpen after a couple of rocky outings of late.

"They got good arms ... and then reinforced, obviously, with Kimbrel here," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

After Kopech threw two hitless innings, Kimbrel powered his way out of trouble while striking out the side in the eighth. With one out and runners on second and third after Jed Lowrie's ground-rule double, Kimbrel fanned Chapman and Josh Harrison to reach 1,001 Ks for his career.

"He's as tough as he is talented," La Russa said.

Hendriks then struck out the side in order for his 27th save in 33 opportunities. The right-hander agreed to a \$54 million, three-year contract with Chicago in January after spending the last five seasons in Oakland.

Hendriks was hit hard in his previous two outings, surrendering three homers and six earned runs in 1 1/3 innings against the Yankees. Kimbrel, who was acquired in a July 30 trade with the Cubs, returned to the mound after he allowed Aaron Judge's leadoff homer in the eighth inning of Saturday's 7-5 loss to New York.

"We got those two guys on the back end that you could flip a coin with and be comfortable that they're going to dominate," Kopech said. "I don't think any rough stretches for any of us dictate what kind of team



Chicago White Sox relief pitcher Liam Hendriks reacts at the end of the baseball game against the Oakland Athletics, Monday, Aug. 16, 2021, in Chicago. AP

this is. I think everybody knows what we're capable of."

Reds 14, Cubs 5

In Cincinnati, Jonathan India homered and drove in five runs, Wade Miley threw seven shutout innings and the Cincinnati Reds beat Chicago, 14-5, on Monday night in Cincinnati, handing the free-falling Cubs their 12th straight loss.

Joey Votto, the 37-year-old Cincinnati first baseman who has been on a tear since the All-Star break, got the 2,000th hit of his career, a solid single in the seventh. Votto came up again later in the inning and drove in a run with another base hit during an eight-run Reds outburst.

Miley (10-4) allowed four hits and struck out seven as the second-place Reds won for the ninth time in 13 games and moved within 7 1/2 games of idle Milwaukee in the NL Central.

Following a huge selloff at the trade deadline last month, the Cubs have lost 12 in a row for the first time since 2012.

India's two-out drive into the upper deck in the fourth scored Miley and gave the Reds a 2-0 lead. Aristides Aquino and Tucker Barnhart also slammed two-run homers.

Cincinnati's outburst in the seventh was highlighted by India's bases-loaded double, his third hit of the night.

Cubs right-hander Justin Steele (2-2), making his second major league start, allowed five hits and two runs over four innings.

Chicago scored five runs off two Reds relievers in the eighth, but Jeff Hoffman retired the side in order in the ninth.

Braves 12, Marlins 2

In Miami, Freddie Freeman and Adam Duvall homered in a seven-run fourth inning, and surging Atlanta beat Miami.

Freeman also singled twice while Ozzie Albies had three hits and three RBIs for the NL East-leading Braves, who have won four straight and 11 of 13.

Trailing, 2-1, Atlanta broke it open against Miami starter Braxton Garrett (1-2) and reliever Paul Campbell in the fourth. Freeman's three-run blast off Campbell made it 5-2. Austin Riley doubled and scored on Dansby Swanson's RBI single.

Duvall, who rejoined Atlanta in a trade from Miami on July 30, then drove Campbell's curveball into the left-field seats. The two-run shot was his 27th homer of the season.

Yankees 2, Angels 1

In New York, Gerrit Cole pitched two-hit ball into the sixth inning and struck out nine in his return from the COVID-19 injured list, Joey Gallo hit a two-run homer and New York beat Los Angeles.

New York has won 10 of 13 and pulled within two games of Boston for an AL wild-card spot. The Yankees open a three-game series against the Red Sox with a day-night doubleheader today.

Cole (11-6) went 5 2/3 innings, the only damage against him coming on Justin Upton's homer in the first. The Yankees' ace walked just one batter and threw 90 pitches, reaching 100 mph in his first appearance since allowing eight runs to Tampa Bay on July 29.

The right-hander tested positive for COVID-19 on Aug. 3 and had mild symptoms. He showed ill effects Monday.

Gallo hit his 29th homer in the first inning against José Suarez (5-6), a drive into the second deck in right field. Gallo has four homers with New York since being acquired July 29 from Texas.

Rays 9, Orioles 2,

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Brett Phillips had an inside-the-park homer, Brandon Lowe went deep twice, and AL East-leading Tampa Bay handed Baltimore its 12th consecutive loss.

Baltimore has been outscored, 113-36, during the skid. The Orioles dropped 14 in a row from May 18-31.

Kevin Kiermaier and Mike Brosseau also homered for the Rays, who are 12-1 against the Orioles this sea-

son. Tampa Bay has outscored Baltimore, 103-51, and has had nine runs or more in eight of the games.

Josh Fleming (10-6) followed opener Collin McHugh and gave up two runs and six hits over 5 2/3 innings.

McHugh struck out one over two perfect innings. He has not allowed an earned run in 16 consecutive appearances, spanning a team-record 32 straight innings.

Twins 5, Indians 4

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco did it again.

Polanco doubled with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning to score Max Kepler and give the Minnesota Twins a 5-4 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Monday night.

It was the second straight walk-off win for the Twins, who have won eight of 11. Polanco had a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning to beat Tampa Bay on Sunday and is the first Twins player with at least four walk-offs in a season since Kent Hrbek had five in 1987.

Minnesota last had consecutive walk-off wins Sept. 13-14, 2017.

"Another big moment for him and we needed it. We needed someone to come up big and make it decisive and he did," said manager Rocco Baldelli.

Minnesota, which left the bases loaded in the ninth, had them loaded with no outs in the 10th. Rob Refsnyder hit a sharp ground ball to third baseman Jose Ramirez, who stepped on the bag and threw home to get Ryan Jeffers.

Royals 7, Cardinals 6

In Kansas City, Mo., the Kansas City Royals had shown very little fight in a three-game sweep by the St. Louis Cardinals over the weekend.

They showed about three games' worth of it Monday night.

After answering about every time the Houston Astros tied the game or pulled ahead, Salvador Perez capped the back-and-forth affair with a two-out single in the eighth inning that lifted the Royals to a 7-6 victory over the AL West leaders.

"We just played three games that

I felt were very uncharacteristic. We didn't display any kind of whatever," Royals manager Mike Matheny said. "It wasn't like us, and to see them come out—we talk about teams having short memories and it's pretty amazing how these guys forget about the last one and come back and keep going."

Whit Merrifield and Nicky Lopez produced back-to-back two-out singles off Astros reliever Yimi Garcia (3-8) before Perez came to the plate. The big catcher got just enough of a slider off the handle of the bat to drop it down the right-field line, allowing Merrifield and Lopez to score the go-ahead runs—and both would be important.

Rockies 6, Padres 5

In Denver, C.J. Cron hit a solo homer in the ninth inning to give the Colorado Rockies a 6-5 win over the San Diego Padres on Monday night.

It was Cron's 20th homer of the season and came with one out off of Daniel Hudson (4-2).

"A guy that's been swinging the bat well for us ... C.J. did what he can do. I really thought we deserved that one," Rockies manager Bud Black said.

Hudson, acquired from Washington at the trade deadline, got Charlie Blackmon to line out to start the ninth. Cron hit the first pitch he saw from Hudson over the scoreboard in right field to end it.

"Chuck just squared one up the pitch before so I knew there was a chance he might go slider there. Nothing I was sitting on, but I was able to react," Cron said.

Connor Joe homered on his 29th birthday, and Blackmon also went deep for the Rockies.

San Diego had tied it in the top of the ninth on Trent Grisham's two-out, three-run homer against Daniel Bard (6-5). It was his 13th of the season.

Giants 7, Mets 5

In San Francisco, Kris Bryant hit two home runs, Kevin Gausman set a career high for wins and the San Francisco Giants beat the New York Mets 7-5 on Monday night.

Brandon Crawford had four hits to continue his surge at the plate over the past month. San Francisco's All-Star shortstop, who signed a \$32 million, two-year contract last week, is hitting .427 over his last 28 games.

Pinch-hitter Brandon Belt also homered and Wilmer Flores added two hits and an RBI against his original team. The surprising Giants have won 16 of 21 and boast the best record in the majors at 77-42, good for a four-game lead in the NL West over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"The one word that comes to mind when I think of this is contagious," Bryant said. "We're working the ball through the middle, we're not letting the starter steal strikes from the very first pitch and we're ready to go right when the bell rings. It's really fun to be a part of."

Jonathan Villar hit his 14th home run for the third-place Mets, who dropped 3 1/2 games behind NL East-leading Atlanta. New York (59-59) has lost four straight and fell to .500 for the first time since May 6.

With DeRozan and Ball, Bulls eye jump in Eastern Conference



In this May 12, 2021, file photo, Brooklyn Nets' Bruce Brown (1) defends against San Antonio Spurs' DeMar DeRozan (10) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in New York.

AP



CHICAGO (AP)—Joining Olympian Zach LaVine and Nikola Vucevic in what could be a high-scoring trio appealed to DeMar DeRozan. He is thrilled to get to play alongside fellow newcomer Lonzo Ball, too.

He sees a team poised to make a jump, and that explains why the Chicago Bulls were an attractive destination.

"Every guy, when I look at their roster, has a chip on their shoulders," DeRozan said. "Vuc, since college, I know the type of player he is, how bad he wants to win. Zach wanting to be on that main stage and wanting to compete for something much more than just stats during the season. Myself, I always carried a chip on my shoulder. And Lonzo. ... There's so much there that can bring so much potential."

The Bulls finished 11th in the Eastern Conference and missed the playoffs for the fourth straight year. While it was their first season with Arturas Karnisovas leading the front office and Billy Donovan coaching the club, they clearly have their sights set on the postseason.

The Bulls are banking on DeRozan and Ball to help them get there after making big moves to acquire the two in separate sign-and-trade deals. They introduced their new arrivals on Friday.

DeRozan, a four-time All-Star with eight straight seasons averaging more than 20 points, agreed to a three-year, \$85 million contract. In return, the Bulls sent San Antonio veteran forwards Thaddeus Young and Al-Farouq Aminu, a protected first-round draft pick and two second-round draft picks.

The Bulls gave Ball, a restricted free agent, \$85 million over four years. The Pelicans got Garrett Temple, Tomas Satoransky, a 2024 second-round draft pick from Chicago and landed guard Devonte Graham from Charlotte in a separate sign-and-trade move.

"I think everything happens for a reason and everything plans out how it's supposed to plan out," Ball said. "I think at this point in my life, it was time for me to be a Chicago Bull. I'm happy to be in Chicago. Obviously, I've got good bonds with guys over there in New Orleans. It could have worked out, but like I said, everything happens for a reason."

Ball, a four-year veteran who

turns 24 in October, is coming off his best season. In his second year with the Pelicans, he averaged career highs in points (14.6 per game) and field-goal percentage (41.4) while averaging 5.7 assists. He hit a career-high 172 3-pointers last season while making a career-best 37.8% of his shots from deep.

Ball, drafted by the Lakers with the No. 2 pick out of UCLA in 2017, changed his shooting mechanics after being traded to the Pelicans in the deal that sent Anthony Davis to Los Angeles.

"Since he's been in the league, it seems like he hasn't really been let free to be the player that I believe he is," DeRozan said. "Coming to this organization once I'd seen him sign and seeing him having that opportunity for the first time in his career, was something that I definitely want to be a part of. The dynamic that he brings to the court on both ends is tremendous."

There are some questions about how all the pieces will fit together. DeRozan isn't concerned.

"It's basketball," he said. "A lot of people I see criticize and talk about 'fit this, fit that' probably never even played basketball. Being a basketball player you go out,

play at the park. Some of your best teams is against guys you don't even know, that you go out there and compete with. For me, if everybody is on the same page, mentality and wants to win, it doesn't matter about a fit because it's all gonna come together."

DeRozan also sees a hunger in LaVine, who made his first All-Star team last season and played on a gold medal team in Tokyo. One thing he hasn't done is play in the postseason in seven years with Minnesota and Chicago.

DeRozan insisted the Bulls will see an even better version of LaVine because of his Olympic experience. He remembers what winning the gold in Rio did for himself.

"Being amongst a group of the greatest players in the world, the greatest minds, the greatest coaches—it does something unconsciously to you that gives you the ultimate confidence, the ultimate work ethic," DeRozan said. "It makes you realize you belong in the elite category of guys, and that carries over to the season. ... The winning mentality that they have and what it feels like to win. Something like that carries over, whether you realize that or not."

Hammon hopes it becomes normal for women to get NBA jobs

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Becky Hammon can't wait for the time when it's normal for women to interview for head coaching positions in the NBA and their gender isn't the story.

"It's huge and important. It's something that can't be (checking) the box," the Spurs assistant told The Associated Press. "You have to hire the best person. Half the world's population hasn't been tapped for their mind and ability and skill sets in the sports world. It's something that needs to change."

Hammon is entering her eighth season as an assistant and has been interviewed for several head coach openings but hasn't gotten an offer to be the first woman to lead a NBA team.

"There's 30 jobs and they are incredibly hard to get," Hammon said in a phone interview on Tuesday. "When I saw there are 30 jobs, not all 30 are available, so I'm really talking about three or four and they are really hard to get."

While Hammon would love to be the first, she hopes it's for the right reasons.

"Please don't hire me to check a box. That's the worst thing you can do for me," she said. "Hire me because of my skill sets and coaching, who am I as a person, hire me for those."

Hammon was a finalist for the Portland Trail Blazers job, which went to Chauncey Billups.

"I can't speak for organizations

across the league and the whole sports world. I can tell you they were asking me legitimate coaching questions," the 44-year-old said. "When you get to this level, you've got to hire the best person for the job and the person who fits your organization the best."

Hammon spoke from Las Vegas, where she was watching the NBA summer league, but on Thursday her eyes will be on Phoenix, the site of the inaugural WNBA Commissioner's Cup championship game between Seattle and Connecticut, which will be streamed on Amazon Prime Video.

"It's a really good idea. Another opportunity for people to see these women compete at the highest

level," she said. "It's not foreign to women playing overseas. The WNBA players are used to it."

She played in a few cup championships while competing overseas during the winters.

"They are always fun, always bonuses in everyone's contract. That was overseas," she said. "Put a little something extra on the line."

While Hammon is excited about the game, not all the players are thrilled by the timing. Five of the Storm's players were at the Tokyo Olympics, including stars Breanna Stewart, Jewell Loyd and Sue Bird, who helped the U.S. win a seventh consecutive gold medal. "Obviously it's not the best for us," Stewart said in Tokyo. "We'll see what happens."

Clippers trade Beverley, Rondo to Memphis for Eric Bledsoe

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP SPORTS WRITER

The Los Angeles Clippers have brought back guard Eric Bledsoe to the team where he started his NBA career.

A trade with the Memphis Grizzlies announced Monday sends Bledsoe to the Clippers for guards Patrick Beverley and Rajon Rondo and center Daniel Oturu. Bledsoe spent his first three seasons in Los Angeles after being the 18th pick overall out of Kentucky in 2010 before going to Phoenix, Milwaukee and New Orleans.

"We are excited to add Eric, a strong, versatile guard and an established playmaker who can attack the paint and defend multiple positions," said Lawrence Frank, the Clippers' president of basketball operations. "Eric started his career with the Clippers and we're delighted to bring him back."

Memphis only acquired Bledsoe in a trade July 26 with New Orleans that also brought the Grizzlies center Steven Adams in exchange for center Jonas Valanciunas along with a swap of multiple draft picks.

Bledsoe averaged 12.2 points, 3.8 assists and 3.4 rebounds in his lone season with the Pelicans, who had acquired him from Milwaukee during the 2020 offseason as part of a trade that sent Jrue Holiday to the Bucks.

As part of that trade with the Pelicans, the Grizzlies wound up with the 10th overall pick in Stanford forward Ziaire Williams. Memphis is making moves both to improve the roster of a team that lost in the opening round of the playoffs to Utah and keep building around Ja Morant and Jaren Jackson Jr.

Beverley was the Clippers' longest-tenured player, having spent four years in Los Angeles. The fiery, 33-year-old guard averaged 7.5 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.1 assists while playing 22.5 minutes a game last season. He also shot 40% from 3-point range, although he's best known for his pesky defense and leadership.

Frank called Beverley a pillar of the Clippers for the past four years.

"We are grateful for his presence and for the contributions of Rajon, a premier orchestrator, and Daniel, a promising young center," Frank said. "We wish them the best."

Beverley will miss the opener next season as punishment for shoving former Clipper Chris Paul in the back during Game 6 of the Western Conference finals. Beverley earned a technical foul and was ejected. The Phoenix Suns won the game, ending the Clippers' playoff hopes.

Rondo spent half of last season with the Clippers after coming from the Atlanta Hawks in a trade for Lou Williams. Rondo's biggest impact came on the sideline, where the 35-year-old guard served as an unofficial assistant coach, bolstering his teammates with pep talks during timeouts.

Oturu, a 6-foot-8 center, was chosen 33rd overall by the Clippers in the 2020 NBA draft. He averaged five minutes while appearing in 30 games.

From Nigeria to Buffalo: Efe Obada's hard journey to the NFL



ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Efe Obada has a beaming smile and is quick to crack a joke, such as when explaining how he choose an NFL career over the UFC.

"I'm too pretty," he said.

If only it were that simple for someone who couldn't have envisioned such a choice when he was abandoned at 10 years old, or eight years ago when he worked as a part-time security guard at a specialty foods distributing company in England.

The easy-going approach belies the defensive end's difficult journey from Nigeria to North America. It's one that involved Obada and his sister falling into the clutches of a human trafficking ring before eventually being shuttled through foster care homes in London, to now, preparing for his fourth NFL season, and first in Buffalo.

Though an advocate for children caught in similar circumstances, Obada prefers not to talk too much of his childhood. At 29, he is focused on making a name for himself for his pass-rushing abilities rather than his past.

And yet, Obada will allow a moment to share how fortunate he feels every morning on his way to training camp and getting his first glimpse of Highmark Stadium on the horizon in Orchard Park, New York.

"Absolutely every day, ev-

ery single day I drive up here," Obada said with a hearty laugh. "I'm lucky enough to not be from here so I can appreciate it so much more."

Listed at 6-foot-6 and and 265 pounds, Obada came to the NFL's attention playing tight end and defensive end for the London Monarchs—the equivalent of an American semi-pro team. He was first signed to the Dallas Cowboys practice squad and also had brief stints in Atlanta and Kansas City.

Obada got his big break in 2017, when he was assigned to Carolina upon graduating the



In this Aug. 13, 2019, file photo, then-Carolina Panthers' Efe Obada (94) takes the field during an NFL football training camp in Spartanburg, S.C. AP

NFL's International Pathway Program, which develops select international athletes unfamiliar to football to provide them a shot at making a roster.

Four years later, Obada is coming off a breakthrough season in which he put up career-best numbers with 5 1/2 sacks, four tackles for a loss, forced his first fumble and recovered two more in Carolina.

A free agent in March, Obada signed a one-year contract with Buffalo, where he's reunited with former Panthers defensive teammates Mario Addison and Star Lotulelei as well as former coordinator

Eric Washington, who is in his second season as the Bills defensive line coach.

Obada is counting on the familiarity of rejoining two mentors in Addison and Washington to provide him the best opportunity to win a roster spot behind Addison and Jerry Hughes, and at a retooled pass-rushing position featuring the additions of rookie draft picks Greg Rousseau and Carlos Basham.

"It's going to be a race to the quarterback, honestly," Obada said of Buffalo's pass-rushing talent. "I've got my work cut out for me."

Washington saw the potential in Obada when he first arrived in Carolina, and was impressed by how more polished he had become last year.

"I remember the first sack Efe Obada had in a preseason game in 2017. He was so excited, but he was also hungry for the next opportunity," said Washington, who recommended the Bills sign Obada upon reviewing game tape from last season. "It wasn't one play. The film that I watched from last year, it was the consistency."

Addison recalled Obada being a natural at the position.

"I taught him this one move that he kind of perfected. He does it almost better than me," Addison said.

Prescott's preseason plan cloudy as Cowboys bring camp home

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—Dak Prescott's only chance to play in the preseason will be this week, and the star quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys still isn't fully cleared after pulling himself from practice at training camp in California on July 28 with a right shoulder injury.

There's a chance Prescott will go into the opener against Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay without having taken a snap in a game since the severe ankle injury that ended his 2020 season in Week 5.

Before the club's first camp practice at team headquarters Monday night after three weeks on the West Coast, coach Mike McCarthy said Prescott won't play in the preseason if he doesn't

get into the home exhibition opener against Houston on Saturday night.

"We'll see how the week goes, but there's no urgency from my perspective to see Dak play against Houston," McCarthy said. "This is more about we don't want to create a setback possibly."

Prescott, who signed a club record \$160 million, four-year contract in March, is throwing more in practice than he did for the first two weeks after feeling pain in his throwing shoulder while warming up for practice.

The 2016 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year made about two dozen throws during individual work at the team's indoor practice facility

on Monday before sitting out the 11-on-11 work again.

Prescott had his second MRI over the weekend, and the injury is progressing as planned after the Cowboys consulted the medical staffs of the New York Yankees and Texas Rangers and followed their recommendation of rest.

Before the Cowboys left California, Prescott said he hoped to play against the Texans. That appeared less likely with him still watching team drills Monday.

"I'm a go-go-go guy. I always want to be in the action," Prescott said last week. "I think the more reps are better, better for me. But something like this you can't stress it too fast. It's just the risk ver-

sus the reward at this point, and I've got to know what I'm playing for, and that's to be ready for this season."

Prescott said doctors believe the injury "was a little bit of a freak thing," although the two-time Pro Bowler also says it could have been an aggressive plan with throwing, including in the early stages of rehab from the compound fracture and dislocation of his ankle that led to two surgeries.

Receiver CeeDee Lamb isn't concerned about missing quality time with Prescott, who will go at least three weeks without team work in practice. The team changed the schedule for the first week of camp at home and won't practice Tuesday.

PAIRE

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and win after going all out in the second half where the team scored six goals. Church nailed his pair in the second half with the first goal posted in the 59th minute and the second and last in the 72nd. Borja got his goal in the second half in 63rd minute to go

with his first conversion in the 24th. Angeles, who closed out for the NMI U18 in the first half with his goal in the 41st minute, also had the last say for the team when he logged his second goal in the 74th.

TanHoldings 3, Kanoa 2

In the other MSL match last Sunday, Martin Jambor

bagged a pair of goals to lift TanHoldings to a close win over Kanoa.

Jambor hit his target in the 35th minute for TanHoldings' first goal and he also knocked in the go-ahead penalty shot in the 89th. After Jambor's goal in the first half, TanHoldings made it a 2-0 lead, thanks to Jerishwin Angeles' goal in the 53rd minute.

After a long dry spell, Kanoa knotted the count, as it mounted a late comeback and drilled back-to-back goals in a span of four minutes with Ruselle Zapanta and Jhoey Noble scoring in the 76th and 80th minute, respectively. However, Kanoa's last-ditch effort fell short in the end when Jambor came to TanHoldings' rescue with a

PK conversion in the closing minutes of the match.

TanHoldings got its second win, quickly bouncing back from a defeat at the hands of Paire in Week 2 of the league.

Meanwhile, games in the MSL 2 were played last weekend and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Friday edition.

TRYOUTS

From Page 20

The five men that will tackle the course, meanwhile, will include TRAC president Manny Sitchon, former Saipan Swim Club coach Jacoby Winkfield, Eric David Li, and swimmers Christian Villacrusis and Isaiah Aleksenko.

As per the Pacific Games Council manual, TRAC ear-

lier said that to be eligible for the Mini Games an athlete must be a U.S. passport-holder and must have resided in the CNMI for five years.

The 2022 Mini Games will be held in the CNMI from June 17 to 25. Triathlon, one of nine sports that will be offered in the Mini Games, will have 53 participants and will be held in the southernmost island of the CNMI on Rota.

The triathlon tryouts for next year's Mini Games is sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC and Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center.

Aside from the triathlon tryouts, the islands' youth will also be included in the triathlon action as TRAC will also hold the Taga Kids Triathlon on the same day starting at 8am.

There will be two divisions—5-8 years old (50m

swim/1 loops bike/1 loop run) and 9-12 years old (100m swim/2 loops bike/2 loops run)—and the entire course will be confined at the Paupau Beach complex.

TRAC secretary general Ricky Castro said 12 participants have signed up for the Taga Kids Triathlon, which will include a mixed relay division.

"Every kid who conquers the course will earn a finisher's

medal," said Castro.

Registration for both the Mini Games tryout and Taga Kids closed last Aug. 15, 2021. TRAC also emphasized that there absolutely will be no extension on the registration deadline and no-race day registration.

For more information and updates on the twin events hosted by TRAC, check <https://www.facebook.com/groups/610323035687262>.

Lorraine Babauta, and golf tournament coordinators Marco Peter and Joey Dela Cruz. Peter incidentally is also the chairman of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee.

For more information on the CFoGA tryouts for the Mini Games, call Dela Cruz at 783-4287 and Atalig at 285-1612.

CFoGA

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ers, and two junior women's players.

Dela Cruz said the men will tee off from blue tees and the women from white tees at the picturesque Agingan golf resort, which had a total makeover following the devastation of Super

Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

On the matter of who will be coaching the men's and women's national golf teams, Dela Cruz said CFoGA is still in the process of selecting them.

"There have been interested individuals for coaching, however there will be a call for coaches," she said.

Tryout fee is \$30 with green

fee at \$30 and Pacific Games Council eligibility rules dictate that only U.S. citizens who are CNMI residents can try out for the national team. Another eligibility requirement CFoGA included is anyone trying out should also be a member of any CFoGA-sanctioned club.

CFoGA vice president J.J. Atalig earlier told *Saipan Tri-*

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	72	47	.605	—
Boston	69	51	.575	3 1/2
New York	66	52	.559	5 1/2
Toronto	63	54	.538	8
Baltimore	38	79	.325	33

Central Division

Chicago	69	50	.580	—
Cleveland	57	60	.487	11
Detroit	58	62	.483	11 1/2
Minnesota	53	66	.445	16
Kansas City	50	67	.427	18

West Division

Houston	70	48	.593	—
Oakland	68	51	.571	2 1/2
Seattle	63	56	.529	7 1/2
Los Angeles	59	61	.492	12
Texas	42	76	.356	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	63	56	.529	—
Philadelphia	61	57	.517	1 1/2
New York	59	59	.500	3 1/2
Miami	51	68	.429	12
Washington	50	68	.424	12 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	72	47	.605	—
Cincinnati	65	55	.542	7 1/2
St. Louis	61	56	.521	10
Chicago	52	69	.430	21
Pittsburgh	42	77	.353	30

West Division

San Francisco	77	42	.647	—
Los Angeles	73	46	.613	4
San Diego	67	54	.554	11
Colorado	53	66	.445	24
Arizona	38	81	.319	39

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

MARIANAS SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

(As of Aug. 16, 2021)

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Paire FC	3	3	0	0	11	3	8	9
NMI U18	2	2	0	0	11	1	10	6
TanHoldings	3	2	0	1	9	5	4	6
MP United	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
Kanoa FC	4	1	0	3	8	16	-8	3
Old B Bank	4	0	0	4	2	15	-13	0



**Hendriks gets
save as White
Sox beat
Athletics, 5-2**

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**From Nigeria
to Buffalo:
Efe Obada's
hard journey
to the NFL**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

20 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021

Paire, NMI U18 keep clean slates

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The NMI Boys U18 National Team and Paire Football Club eased past their respective opponents to remain undefeated in the Marianas Soccer League Summer Season last week at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire made it three in a row and kept the top spot in the team standings following a 3-0 triumph over cellar dweller Old B Bank last



Sunday. Steve McKagan, Ajani Burrell, and Mareko Tekopua scored for Paire with the former earning his goal early in the fifth minute.



The NMI Boys U18 National Team's Dev Bachani, left, gets tangled with Kanoa Football Club's Andrew Sablan as they battle for possession during their game in the Marianas Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



TanHoldings Football Club players form a wall to defend against a free kick from Kanoa Football Club during their game in the Marianas Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Burrell registered his goal in the 24th minute, while Tekopua hit the board 20 minutes later. Paire handed Old B Bank its fourth loss in as many matches.

NMI U18 had an easy win in the MSL last Thursday after dominating

Kanoa Football Club, 8-1. Aloy Angeles, Taka Borja, and Kaden Church delivered two goals apiece for the NMI U18, which moved up to second place in the team standings with its two 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record. Brian Lubao and Kohta-

ro Goto tallied the other goals for the NMI U18, while Andrew Omelau made the lone goal for Kanoa, which absorbed its second defeat against one victory.

The NMU U18 coasted to its second victory.

See PAIRE on Page 19

CFoGA to hold 1st of five Mini Games tryouts Saturday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations expects 12-15 players to show up on the start of its tryouts for the CNMI National Golf Team for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games this Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Coral Ocean Resort.

CFoGA social and media officer Geri Dela Cruz said interested individuals are asked to show up not only for Day 1 of tryouts but also for the rest of the four tryouts on Sept. 5, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, and Oct. 16.

The federation will be looking at forming a national team made up of two men's players, two junior men's players, two women's players, and two women's players.

See CFOGA on Page 19



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Many time CNMI national golfer Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho in action in this file photo from a recent tournament.

13 triathletes sign up for Mini Games tryouts

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



A total of 13 triathletes have so far signed up for this Saturday's tryouts for the CNMI National Triathlon Team that will represent the Commonwealth in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

The first round of tryouts the Triathlon Association of the CNMI will be conducting is of the sprint triathlon variety and will start at 6am at Paupau Beach in San Roque. It will consist of a 750m swim, a 20km bike (Paupau/Seafix/Banzai/Paupau), and 5km run (Paupau/Ayuyu Drive/Paupau).

The participants include eight women triathletes led by multi-sport wunderkind Kaithlyn Chavez, Janet King, Shawna Brennfleck, Ayano Braxton, Tania Tan, Kathy Ruszala, Lily Muldoon, and Heather Brook.

See TRYOUTS on Page 19



Winkfield



Ruszala